

Name: Ditte Isak

Year in Course: 3rd (Senior)

Topic: Behavioral Sciences

Mentors: Jessica Fossum (UCLA) and Dr. Melanie Morrison (University of Saskatchewan)

Title: Investigating Correlations Between Internalized Homophobia and Transphobia in Adolescents and Environmental and Demographic Factors

Bio:

Ditte Isak is a senior at Pawling High School who has worked extraordinarily hard during the third year of her participation in the science research program. She has enrolled in several challenging courses such as AP Calculus and AP Physics this year. These challenging courses, including science research, have provided Ditte with a broader science experience and allowed her to explore innovative applications. When she is not studying, Ditte is an active member of a variety of clubs, including Debate Team, Math Team, Mock Trial, and Literary Society. She enjoys writing, acting, and playing guitar in her spare time. Her love of science and its vast opportunities is what compelled Ditte to enroll in the Science Research Program.

Ditte is incredibly passionate about psychology, especially as it pertains to groups, both as singular entities and with regard to individual members of those groups. Right now, she is applying that interest to studying individuals within the LGBT+ community. For as long as she can remember, she has been surrounded by people of different identities, and their struggles have inspired her to contribute to the minimal amount of information about the community and its various issues. Currently, Ditte is investigating internalized transphobia and internalized homophobia in adolescents. She has collected survey-based information from a variety of participants to explore the correlations between their demographics, location, and environment that may influence both their perception of themselves and their attitudes toward others. Through this research, she hopes to contribute to creating a better understanding of the difficulties LGBT+ adolescents face in today's society and the impacts that has on their mentalities.

