

Dear Mr. Kupferman,

Thank you so much for giving me the opportunity to intern with Gray Panthers this summer. When looking for a summer internship, my main priority was to find an opportunity that allowed me to partake in meaningful tasks and responsibilities. Gray Panthers provided me with this opportunity. Through creating handouts to be distributed at UN meetings, attending the High Level Political Forum, interviewing real people about their experiences with ageism, and writing articles on behalf of Gray Panthers to highlight specific issues, I felt as though I was doing significant work, work that would truly contribute to bringing awareness and equality to age discrimination issues. The projects that I was able to work on with Gray Panthers were always interesting and forced me to think dynamically and creatively. Throughout the summer I appreciated the expectation that I was able to create finished products on my own, even though some of the issues they addressed were quite complex. Such legitimate responsibility has allowed me to grow as a young professional and I am so grateful that I was given the opportunity to engage in such work in an intern position.

Additionally, the work that I participated in with Gray Panthers this summer exposed me to a realm of discrimination I had not previously been as aware of. I am now significantly more knowledgeable about the ways that ageism shapes our society both implicitly and explicitly. This discrimination is now something that I feel prepared to recognize and work to combat, particularly in my personal interactions but on larger scales as well.

The level of responsibility that you and the rest of Gray Panthers placed on me is what made my internship experience this summer so valuable. I am so grateful that I was able to contribute to such meaningful work and will continue to work against age discrimination whenever I am able in the future.

Sincerely,
Tess Bedingfield