



# *AVA PURCELL*

Hi everyone! My name is Ava Purcell and I am a first year student at UVM studying Animal Science on the Pre-Vet Track. My main reasoning for running for one of UVM's SGA highly coveted Senate seats is because I have always had a passion for student government. One of my core beliefs is giving the student body a voice to address issues and working together as a community to solve them.

Being a problem solver is one of the character traits that I am most proud of as I had to learn to be one and still am learning every day. I feel to be a true leader you must always recognize that there is room for growth. This means I am not one to give up when I hear constructive criticism and believe the term that we ourselves are our harshest critic. I believe that being able to truly listen to others is another character trait that I possess and that helps to shape me as a leader.

My past experiences in a leadership position started in elementary school when I joined student government for the first time in fourth grade and continued to be involved in it all the way up until senior year of high school. There I was made the Vice President of my school's Student Government. As well as being Vice President of my school, I was also an elected delegate in my school's Student Council and treasurer of my school's National Honor Society. I also have experience working with others as I was involved in a few other clubs, and to name a few, Students Helping Students, which was a tutoring club, and Environmental Club.

One thing I'm most passionate about is keeping students informed about what their elected representatives are accomplishing, along with any decisions that we make on their part. One thing I loved that was recently implemented at my old high school was leadership conferences where all the officers from every single club in the school would meet to come up with new ideas of how to improve and help the student body. There would also be speak outs where any student would be able to come in and talk to student government about any of their issues or new ideas for the school. I am also an advocate for easy mental health accessibility, which I believe can always be added to and improved upon as new ideas occur every second.

I would love to be seen as a connector between the University's Administration and the student body. I've only been in Vermont for a few weeks now, but already I have fallen in love with the community Burlington, it's natural beauty and the people. My hope if elected to SGA will be making my voice along with thousands of others heard.