

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Matthew Levine, and I am an incoming third-year student at The Ohio State University, studying finance with a minor in professional writing. I am writing to you about my experience as a Jewish student at Ohio State this past year—a year filled with unfathomable antisemitism and anti-Jewish hate on campus.

I am a proud member of the Ohio State community, serving both as a member of the Undergraduate Student Government and as a University Ambassador, giving tours to prospective students throughout the year. I was also the Emerson Fellow for StandWithUs, an international nonprofit Israel education organization dedicated to supporting Israel and fighting antisemitism. As the representative for StandWithUs at Ohio State, I had a front-row seat to all the antisemitic incidents that were recorded in the StandWithUs Title VI case filed in March.

In a January op-ed I published in The Lantern, Ohio State's undergraduate newspaper, titled "No Longer Just a Business Student, Ohio State's Anti-Semitism Problem," I wrote: "When I made the choice to attend the Students for Justice in Palestine rally in the Ohio Union on Jan. 11, I wasn't prepared for what I heard. It was my second day back from Israel after attending a nine-day Wartime Fact Finders trip, alongside 23 remarkable Jewish and non-Jewish students from across the nation, assembled by Maccabee Task Force, an organization created in 2015 to combat the disturbing spread of antisemitism on college campuses. I hadn't processed the trip yet—I am still processing it. Stories of rape and barbarism echoed in my head, as did accounts of corpses that simply crumbled to ash when the first responders handled them. As the protesters called out, 'There is only one solution, intifada revolution,' my legs went weak. I felt helpless. I looked at the police, but they couldn't help me. I looked toward administrators, but they couldn't help either."

The January 11 protest would be only the beginning, I would come to learn. By the final week of the spring semester, two attempts to pass a Boycotts, Divestments, and Sanctions Resolution occurred, in addition to a large-scale encampment on Ohio State's campus. Furthermore, countless other acts of antisemitism can be learned about in the Title VI case filed by StandWithUs.

I am writing this letter to you from Israel, where I am working, visiting family, and volunteering this summer. I can confidently tell you that it is much easier to be Jewish in Israel than at Ohio State. I hope that changes and that I can feel just as safe at Ohio State—the place where I live eight months out of the year—as I do half a world away in the middle of a war.

Thank you for your time.

Best regards,  
Matt Levine