



Nadine Sheridan

Award for Excellence - Student of the Year Freestyle Academy May 2025

Nadine Sheridan is one of the most sincere communicators I've had the pleasure of teaching. Over the past two years, she has consistently demonstrated genuine intellectual curiosity and a daily enthusiasm for engaging with her classmates. At her core, Nadine is a listener; she takes in different ideas and perspectives before contributing thoughtfully to discussions. She approaches every reading assignment with passion and always comes prepared to participate actively in class. Her writing reflects both her intellectual engagement and emotional sensitivity. In one of her most distinctive pieces, a lyrical essay titled *Across the Highway*, Nadine combined poetic prose, research, and personal narrative to convey the experience of social isolation and the need for resilience. During her research, she discovered the story of the endangered Franciscan Manzanita, which became her central metaphor and allowed her to weave her interests in botany and environmentalism into a layered work of creative nonfiction. When she recited the essay in class, its emotional power moved several audience members to tears (truly—I was one of them). This is just one of many transformative moments Nadine has helped create. In her quiet and genuine way, she brings kindness to every interaction—with both peers and teachers. She gives and receives feedback with grace, asks insightful questions, and is always eager to lend a hand. It's also worth noting that Nadine is only the second senior ever to create the Freestyle yearbook. Her excellence and deep care for our community shine through in everything she does.

~Jason Greco, Freestyle Academy English Teacher

Nadine Sheridan has been an enthusiastic learner and enjoyed all the animation projects. I can easily see she always puts a lot of effort into the projects. She always brings a positive vibe and bright attitude with a smile in the class. She cooperates consistently with the teachers and other students, also very kind and helpful to everyone in the classroom. This student was a team leader for the Junior, Senior Narrative animations, both animation projects were very successful and set an example of excellence in leading the animation group projects. Nadine actively participates in Freestyle community projects and is always respectful of other students in the Freestyle community activities. Nadine loves birds. I always enjoy and am happy to find the bird design or bird animation on her Freestyle projects.

Congratulations for the Student of the Year 2025, This student totally deserves the great title!

~Tommy Cho, Freestyle Academy Animation Teacher

I am so excited to have Nadine represent Freestyle out there when she moves on beyond Freestyle. She has always been a model Freestyle student and when the world beyond high school gets to know her and her talents, she will blow them away just as she has done here at Freestyle. The field of STEM, her future field of study, will have someone who knows the science and can artistically communicate the complex concepts in various formats because she can spread wings very wide - just like when we do Tai Chi together, Nadine is a very strong "[Crane Spreading Wings](#)". I will miss doing Tai Chi with her but look forward to doing Tai Chi with her again in the future.

~Leo Florendo, Freestyle Academy Program Coordinator and Digital Media Teacher

Nadine's Website: <https://freestyleacademy.rocks/~NadineS>