

# All About Me



Delaware



Mexico

## I. Who I Am



My name is Thomas Romay III, and I am a junior at Hodgson Vocational Technical High School in Delaware. I have two older sisters who have both graduated from Hodgson. I live with my aunt and uncle, Evette and Carl Bliely, in Bear, Delaware. I have a 3.8667 grade point average, and I am ranked among the top ten of my graduating class. I am the junior class treasurer for the National Honor Society, as well as a member of the Principal Student Liaison

Committee at my school. My career area in school is Technical Drafting. When I graduate from high school, I plan to attend college and major in Architecture at either Drexel University or the University of Pennsylvania. When I'm not in school I am usually found at home playing video games or on the computer. My e-mail address is T3517@aol.com.

Hodgson is located in Newark, Delaware. Since it is a Vo-tech school, the main



focuses of all students' curriculum relate to their career areas. Many students from other schools tend to perceive that because we learn a trade in school that we do not go on to

college. In actuality, we are encouraged to go to college by our teachers, guidance counselors, and other faculty members. Those who wish to pursue college usually take classes that are more challenging, or that will be needed for what they wish to major in college. In all, Hodgson tries to show students how it will be for them beyond high school. Hodgson's website is <http://www.k12.de.us/hodgson/>.

## II. Where I Am

Bear Delaware is a small city in the northern part of the state. Originally known as Aikentown, the city only had twenty-five residents, one blacksmith, one school, and a few shops a century

ago. Now Bear has been growing with new housing developments being built all the time.

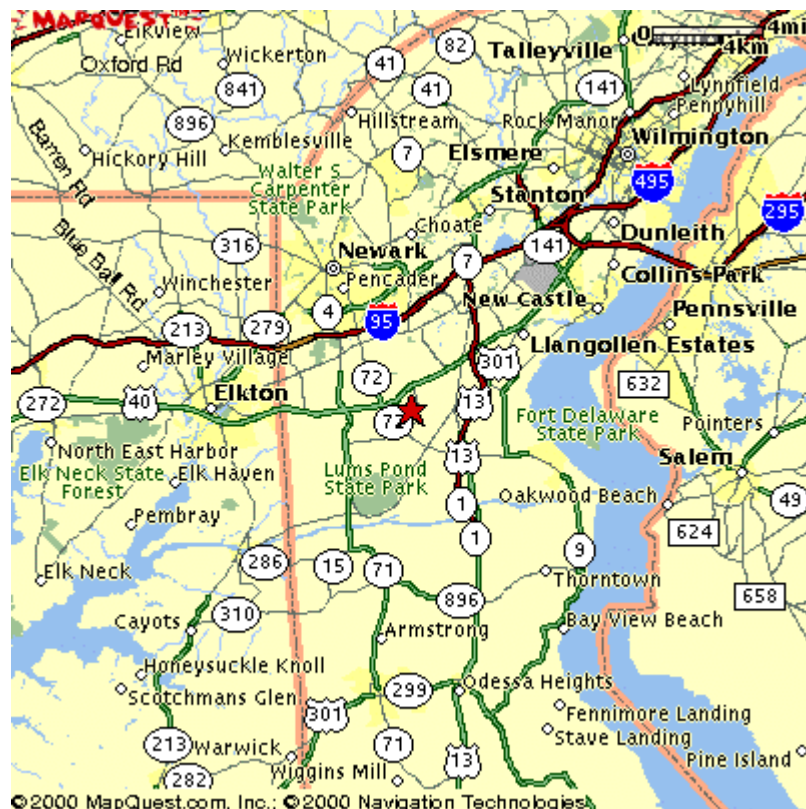
In my nine years living here I have seen

libraries, apartment complexes, housing complexes, houses, shopping centers, and roads built all within

seven minutes of me. More information can be found about Bear, Delaware at

<http://homes.delawareonline.com/com/bear/>.

Delaware is the second smallest state in the U.S. Its nickname is the first state, because it was the first state to ratify the constitution. Delaware's economy is mostly



industry. This takes place mostly in northern Delaware, while agriculture is spread throughout the rest of the state. Delaware is home to Du Pont, which is one of the largest chemical manufactures in the country. This is where much of the state's wealth comes from. Other industries include manufacture apparel, processed foods, rubber and plastic products, and transportation equipment. More information can be found at <http://www.factmonster.com/ce6/us/A0815036.html>.

### **III. How My Community and State Relate to Mexico**

Mexico plays a significant role in Delaware's trade. This is mostly due to NAFTA. Delaware's exports with other NAFTA countries, like Mexico, grew 58% higher in 1999 from where it was in 1993 before NAFTA.

The Mexican community within Delaware also helps with the expansion of the state. In Delaware, there is much construction going on throughout the state. A large majority of the construction workers are Mexicans who have immigrated to the U.S. Without them, it would have been much harder for us to get workers to help build the housing developments.

### **IV. What I Hope To Learn**

From what I have read about APEC so far, it seems really interesting. I would like to learn more about the program itself and get a better understanding on how it operates. I would also like to learn about the cultures of the students from other countries. I want to learn more about free trade and how it effects my community, as well. I would also like to learn about what APEC does to help promote trade between the many different countries.