**What have you done to make your school or your community a better place?**

In my years active at high school I took it upon myself to make the place which I get educated, and the place I live better in many ways. A hobby of mine since I’ve been a child was film-making. I love watching movies, but my real passion is *creating* them. One day I thought to combine my two passions, filmmaking and promoting environmental awareness. Sophomore year I made a short film on littering, which would end up being played to the whole school via the video bulletin. This short film showed the consequences of littering on campus, and the negative effects that it has on not only the school, but the community surrounding.

For the time being I was proud that I was able to make an impact on a large problem on campus, but as time rolled by I found it was time to spread more awareness of environmental issues while continuing to exercise my passion for film-making. Our community is home to one of the last wood-burning bonfire beaches in California, and it has led to an increase in carbon dioxide concentration in areas surround the beach. In a world where greenhouse gas emissions heat the surface of the earth, the addition of more carbon dioxide is not favorable. Therefore, to gain support for banning bonfires on Carmel beach I created an independent film, *Burning on the Beach,* concerning inflated levels on carbon dioxide in the areas surrounding the beach.

I hope the film will be able to accomplish the ultimate goal of getting bonfires banned on the beach, but spreading awareness is equally valuable. Through the utilization of a skill and a passion, I have been able to make my community and school a better place by fighting against environmental degradation of my local area.