*Common App Essay Prompt #1*

*Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it.* If this sounds like you, then please share your story.

If there is one quality that can be consistently attributed to me throughout my life, it is my love and appreciation for filmmaking. Ever since I got my hands on the family VHS camcorder at age four, I have been constantly bringing my ideas and imagination to life through the lens of a camera. Growing up as an avid Lucas fan, my childhood films were either galactic romps or adventures through exotic locations. My parents, sister, and cousins were always ready and willing to stand in as anything from courageous companions to cameramen, and owning two well-trained pug dogs made stories with weird space aliens a cinch.

In fourth grade, my dad offered to let me borrow his laptop to put together a video/slideshow on the Missions of California for a class assignment. This was where I learned something that would forever change the way I made films: editing. No longer were my engrossing epics interrupted by the occasional “Wait mom, start over!”s. I learned that the power of editing could take a jumbled mess of shots and put them together into a seamless, cohesive film.

Unfortunately, the lack of an actual physical camera led to some understandable difficulties. Using the webcam of my dad’s laptop, I lugged around the whole computer from place to place, and my shots were limited by where I could safely place the computer and have it still see me. This obstacle was one that I overcame very quickly, and despite all of my films being shot from table height, the transition to digital filmmaking allowed me to fully harness my creativity and create more complex story lines. Through middle school, I was always known as the film kid. Whether it was creating a documentary on our 7th grade class’s week-long trip to San Francisco or simply inviting my friends over to shoot a chase scene, the whole school knew that I was always going to pursue film. It eventually got to the point where my teachers would allow me to turn in assignments in the form of a video, and many classmates wanted to be my partner, just so they could be in a movie.

It wasn’t until high school that I actually became committed to making planned and organized short films. Pre-production was a new concept to me, as I previously just pointed and shot at anything that looked interesting, without much forethought. This extra step greatly improved my understanding of filmmaking as well as my films themselves. Throughout sophomore and junior year, I made many films, two of which won awards and have been played in eight film festivals nationwide, including the All American International High School Film Festival in New York City.

I would like to major in film production in college and continue my growth as a filmmaker. Although I see my future in film editing, my love for film is all encompassing: I equally enjoy sound editing, screen writing, scoring, cinematography, directing, acting, and the the study of film history. Studying film production at a prestigious film school will give me the tools and training needed in order to make the quality films I have always dreamed of creating.