Personal Essay

During high school I did not know what I wanted to do in life. My parents wanted me to be a doctor or a lawyer, but studying those fields were never enjoyable nor interesting. In my junior year of high school I filmed a short film with my friends and from then on I knew I wanted a career in filmmaking. My mother came from El Salvador while my father's family came from Mexico. Neither went to college so there has always been difficulties when I decided to attend De Anza, in terms of knowledge about the school system, money and support. That has not stop me and it has only fueled my passion to make something of myself in the film industry. During my years at De Anza I have taken many classes including but not limited to: screenwriting, directing, lighting, editing, sound recording and much more. From that experience screenwriting has attracted me the most. While, I would like to act as well, writing a story, building a world with well rounded characters and being able to collaborate with others has driven me to achieve my goal. My experiences in life, influences and motivation will help me towards both my academic and professional goals of acquiring a degree in screenwriting and writing a major motion picture.

There have been a few experiences in my life that I feel best define me and helped me grow into who I am today. The one experience outside of filmmaking would be my first job at The Home Depot. I have kept for just under 3 years. At the Home Depot I've not only proven management that I'm a hard, dependable worker but also to myself, as I've been promoted and transferred to different department in the store within the short amount of time I've been working. Another experience that's effected me is my younger brother. He's been one of few to support my career as a filmmaker. My brother has been diagnosed with a severe case of Tourette
syndrome and it has taught me to be more understanding, patient and helpful towards others. Making connections and building relationships is something that is important and I feel my brother has helped me grow in that aspect. I do have a mentorship in the screenwriting courses taught at De Anza, and I feel that it's helped me become a better screenwriter by helping out others grow their craft. Under my teacher and mentor Barak Goldman, an alumus from UCLA who has been a great influence in my life, I feel my goal of attending UCLA and writing a feature length film is much closer.

I have many influences that have affected me, but the most predominant one would be my mentor and teacher, Barak Goldman. Hearing his stories about how he worked so hard, put so much time into his studies, writing and jobs, and kept going to fulfill his passion even when he was at the lowest point inspire me. People like Barak make me want to be the same way. Just like him I am stubborn, passionate, friendly, reliable, hard working and will do anything to achieve my dreams. I have my passion and have set my goals. Now all that is there for me to do is to put time into my craft and do everything I can and then some to reach my goals. I feed off of others and get motivate when I see someone working their heart out, however, there are other thing that motivate me. During a time when I was doubting whether film was the right choice I remember watching (500) Days of Summer. Watching that movie made me feel something emotionally and I knew that I wanted to create a film that effected the audience like (500) Days of Summer did for me. Just having that dream is enough to fuel me to chase the goal to get the degree from UCLA and write that heartfelt script with a fascinating story and loving characters.

People motivate me to want to write, act or if being a producer is my calling then so be it, but I will work in the film industry. My experiences and influences in life only help me grow as a person towards my dream. I will create a film that will be declared by many to consider it to be their favorite movie and possibly the best movie of all time. Going to UCLA is just the first step to reaching my dream and nothing will stop me.