Isaac Hernandez

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Period 5

English 12

Personal Statement

1. **Describe an example of your leadership experience in which you have positively influenced others, helped resolve disputes, or contributed to group efforts over time.**

I’m not a natural born leader but when I have to step up to the plate, I know that I can manage the responsibility. For example when I used to volunteer for the Lindsay Youth Football Program it was my job to cook the hamburgers and hot dogs. It seems like a pretty simple task but keep in mind that it was about one hundred degrees and I was out there for about eight hours just grilling away. This task required me to make sure that I was keeping up with demand of either product or to slow down. I also had to constantly check in with the people in concessions to see if they needed more hot dogs or hamburgers. I honestly don’t know how many people were there watching their kids but I do know that I grilled around four hundred burgers and about two hundred hot dogs. So it was my job as the “head cook” to make sure that people didn’t have to wait for their food. Not only was I able to keep up with so many orders, I also had the stamina to keep going without stopping or taking breaks. While this isn’t exactly comparable to a traditional leader role, it does some have similar aspects. I think my leadership skills are most notable when working on group projects. It’s not easy splitting up the work because not everyone in your group will have the same work ethic or skills. So before I even give my peers their tasks, I listen to what they want to work on or help make compromises if more than one person wants a certain responsibility. I do this so that no one feels cheated or unable to do their task and that way we can complete the project more efficiently.

 **3. What would you say is your greatest talent or skill? How have you developed and demonstrated that talent over time?**

I have a lot of dumb talents and skills which I won’t go into because they honestly aren’t worth it but I think my proudest skill is my ability to play the guitar. Even though I’m still a beginner, my instructors and even myself have come to find that I almost have a natural knack for it. I’ve only been playing guitar for about two months but I’ve already made significant progress and I’m continuously growing and learning new techniques and chord progressions with little to no difficulty. I’ve always wanted to play guitar so I’m taking every advantage of my lesson time and it’s really starting to show. I’ve developed this skill by not only practicing during my lesson and giving the instructor my utmost respect and attention, but by practicing at home for an hour or two as well. In order for me to practice at home however, I had to go out and search for a guitar to purchase for my own use. I really love playing the guitar and it’s something I’ve always wanted to learn how to play and I’m sure you can tell that I’m committed to learning more. I’d like to throw out there that once I learn how to play the guitar proficiently, that I want to start taking piano lessons as well. Although I don’t want a career in the music industry or anything like that, I still want to broaden my musical creativity because it’s a cool skill or talent to have. If anything not only am I learning this for myself, but I eventually want to be able to teach my future kids these skills.

**x**

**zx6. Describe your favorite academic subject and explain how it has influenced you.**

Out of all the subjects and classes that I’ve had, I think my favorite academic subject is history. More specifically, history about past wars. I like other history subjects such as ancient civilizations or the Roman Empire Era but the history of war has always interested me. Pretty much the only thing I watch on tv back at home are war documentaries or history channels. War movies are another thing I love to watch both fictional and those based off true events. Movies like Saving Private Ryan and We Were Soldiers. However, I do tend to sway more towards war documentaries because they hold more truth and realism. History has influenced me because it allows me to see the wonders of human nature and what mankind is able to accomplish but it also opens my eyes to the dark aspect of man and what they are willing to do for political or resourceful gains. Learning about history has really opened my mind and has allowed me to grow mentally. I honestly believe that because of history I’m able to think a lot more logically and realistically because the truth of the matter is that the world is dark ominous place.

**8. What is the one thing that you think sets you apart from other candidates applying to the University of California?**

 I believe that I belong on a UC campus because I feel like I have a lot to bring to the table and that I can significantly benefit from the opportunities that I would be given. In order to understand who I am you first have to look past my sometimes off putting attitude and pessimistic, almost cynical outlook on life. I’m very easy to befriend and conversations with me are almost always enjoyable. I have a very good sense of humor and can relate to a lot of people which makes it easier for people to get to know me. I’m just a melting pot of interests and ideas that allows me to have a wide variety of friends. Even though there are a lot of people who are probably very similar to me, I can guarantee you that I’m one of a kind. I know I’m not the most intelligent person and I don’t get the best grades but my work habits are very resourceful and excellent. I always turn in assignments before the due date and I’m very polite and respectful. I believe that I’m an average student but unlike a lot of other students I already have a plan that I want to see finished. The fact that I have a plan already puts me above those who don’t have one in my perspective. That is why I think I belong on a UC campus.