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University of California Application Essay

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*Question 1: Every person has a creative side, and it can be expressed in many ways: problem-solving, original and innovative thinking, and artistic endeavors, to name a few.*

*Describe how you express your creative side.*

I have been a creative person since my childhood. I liked making all kinds of handmade crafts, from origami to amateur jewelry and home decorations. Perhaps, everyone gets involved in these types of things childhood. However, my interest in handmade crafts did not fade as I grew up. In my high school years, I started creating my own clothes. We have an old sewing machine at my grandparents' house, which made it possible for me to make a few dresses. My mom used to be a seamstress when she was young. So, she taught me some tricks of this beautiful craft.

Creating my own clothes makes me feel confident. This hobby is a bit old-fashioned, as no one needs to make clothes in the 21st century. In my early childhood, our family went through difficult times. My parents could not afford to buy me cute dresses like more wealthy parents did, so my mom made some pretty ones by her own hands. To be honest, I did not quite understand why my outfit was different from what my friends wore. But, I liked all those wonderful dresses. I never loved jeans like most of my classmates. That is why I tried sewing in my teenage years.

I believe it is a wonderful handmade option for all creative people. My own clothes are good enough for me to wear them on occasion, but they are not extraordinary enough to make me a designer. Still, dressmaking is my favorite creative activity.

*Question 2: What would you say is your greatest talent or skill? How have you developed and demonstrated that talent over time?*

As an art-oriented personality, I liked music since childhood. I was so happy when my parents enrolled me into a piano class 6 years ago. So far, I have not become a world-class pianist, of course. But, music is my true passion and favorite hobby.

Since I was a little girl, I admired people who made musical instruments that produce beautiful sounds. They played so easily that I thought it takes no effort for me to do the same. I was quite disappointed when I discovered that one needs to learn music for a while before he or she can make an instrument sound at least decent. Back then, I dreamed of becoming a musician when I grew up. I saw myself in a beautiful dress playing piano on a stage and imagined how people would applaud me for my music. After I studied piano for a couple of years, I found out that this craft requires hard work. I have had some hard times combining piano classes and my schooling but I did not give up. I managed it all.

Playing piano is a wonderful way of self-expression for me. I can be openly cheerful or melancholic depending on the melody I am playing. I can also be dramatic or intense if a piece requires it. Music makes me feel important and heard. It is a great way to let emotions bring color to our lives.

*Question 3: Describe how you have taken advantage of a significant educational opportunity or worked to overcome an educational barrier you have faced.*

Due to my family's education, I have always been a diligent student who is good enough at most subjects. My parents wanted me to become successful, so I did my best at school. Good performance was never a hard job for me. Challenges began as I started my piano classes.

Playing a musical instrument was more difficult than I could imagine at the age of 12. From this point, I had to combine music and school subjects. My parents required that all of my homework was done on time. When I failed to meet a few deadlines, I started to complain about my misery. It suddenly looked as if I cannot do anything else but study if I want to stay successful.

When I felt most helpless, my mother came and talked to me about my time-management issues. She suggested that I make a schedule and follow it strictly every day. This simple tip became almost life-saving for me at that point.

As I started to discipline myself regarding my free time, it became so much easier to combine my duties and my hobbies. I felt more confident and stopped worrying that I could fail if I keep doing what I love. It is true that some people can squeeze plenty of things in their 24 hours. But, I also suggest that each of us can do more if we take a little effort to master our time management.

*Question 4: What have you done to make your school or your community a better place?*

While I was busy with hobbies and school subjects, I did not pay much attention to volunteering projects available in my high school. Nevertheless, last year I joined a public

initiative that aimed to plant more trees in our school park. There were a few empty lanes around our building and school management decided to plant more trees alongside them.

I was glad to see that many of my friends volunteered for this job. After all, trees make our urban landscape look more cozy and warm. Also, it is essential to make our cities green. I support environmental initiatives and I expect to take part in similar projects in the future.

As I become a college student, I also expect to find some volunteering prospects abroad. I have not traveled much yet and I will be delighted to see how life is abroad. I could go volunteering during summer vacations and then come back home by the start of the new term. I always look positively at new opportunities, as it is the only way to discover more great activities.



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