

My First Passion

Prompt: What you do in the classroom defines only a part of who you are. How do you spend your time when you are not in class or studying? Focus on one activity, two at the most, and discuss what you have gained from your involvement.

Music has always been my passion. I sing all the time. No matter where I am, I sing. So what should I do with my life? The obvious answer would be, "Be a singer." But I am not satisfied with that. I'd love to be a singer, but what do singers actually do? All they do is entertain. They do not solve world problems or make life any better. I want a job that *creates* wealth instead of one that *collects* wealth. My dad is an electrical/computer engineer and he makes \$90,000 a year. "The country is desperately in need of engineers," he says. So, I decided that I wanted to major in electrical or computer engineering. The only problem is, I did not enjoy engineering as much as I enjoyed singing. But, one thing happened to me over the summer that changed the way I thought about engineering and other things in life.

Over the summer, I started my own singing group. My summer started out with my listening to the new Beach Boys Greatest Hits C.D. ~~s. I had heard these two C.D.'s before, but I started to listen to them all the time.~~ I listened to them every day, so I learned some of the parts in the songs. ~~Then~~ I thought of how fun it would be to start a singing group. So, I called up the only three people in town that I knew could sing well. Fortunately, all three of them were good friends of mine. We had all grown up together participating in the drama productions run by the city. Together we four participated in at least fifteen drama productions. So, we got to know each other very well, and we felt comfortable singing together. So, I arranged a time to meet with my buddies, and I bought the Beach Boys music. Actually, the reason I called them up was because I had invited them to a party, and I wanted them to sing a four-part version of "In My Room" at my party. So, I assigned each of them their own voices: Brian at bass, Darren at baritone, Jeff at tenor, and myself at falsetto (Brian Wilson's part). So, we learned the song and sang it at the party. I was amazed at how quickly the guys learned their parts and how well we sounded together.

I decided to continue on with the group. We learned "Surfer Girl" next. After "Surfer Girl", I started to arrange the songs on my own. Considering that there were five Beach Boys and we were only four, and the fact that the music I had was written for soloists, I had to come up with my own parts for the group. This is what often took a lot of my time. Arranging the songs was a difficult task. Also, I had to worry about practicing the songs with the guys. During the summer it was much easier to find time to practice. But when school started, it was tougher to find time to arrange the music and to practice it. Despite my all my schoolwork, drama, and wrestling, I still found time to work on my music. I also had to schedule especially around Brian because he did not go to El Segundo High School like the rest of us. We would go on to perform "In My Room" again at the "Richmond Street Fair" in El Segundo, our hometown. We would also sing "Be True to Your School" at the High School Homecoming game and "Little Saint Nick" for the school Christmas Concert.

Leading this singing group has really made me think. This is true dedication. My love for music and my desire to arrange songs has made me a true leader. Now I understand just what I need to succeed at something. It is often difficult for me (and for



the great majority of us) to do my schoolwork, because I always say how much I hate it. But, if I can grow to love doing my schoolwork, then I will always succeed at it. This goes for anything that I do. Sometimes I don't feel like going to wrestling practice, but I can always say, "Maybe today's practice will be a fun one for me." This is now what I say to everything that I don't like doing. "This could be fun." "When I don't feel like doing something, that could be the time that I do my best work." If I believe that any responsibility that I have is fun and that I love doing it, then I will do it. It is much easier for me to work on my music because I do not have to tell myself that I love it. I already know that I love it. My instincts tell me that. But I can train my body and mind to love anything that I want. This is what my love for music has taught me. My having a singing group has also taught me about the responsibilities of leadership. My friends rely on me to teach them their parts. Without me there would not have been any singing group in the first place, so they respect me. Most importantly, my having a singing group has proven that I can be proactive and that I am capable of accomplishing my goals. This is what also motivates me to do other things; having the knowledge that I am capable and that I have potential.

When I get into college, I want to concentrate on nothing but my major. As long as I concentrate on that one thing and learn to love it, I will succeed at it. I want to help improve the world. I want to create something that betters our way of life. The world *does* need more engineers. My first passion can help me be passionate about other things.

Alex, I like your essay. At your conclusion, you did not explain how or why your love of music will make you a good engineer. Is hard work enough to make you like engineering? Could a college admissions person be led to think that your motivation to become an engineer to be less than desired? Would they rather admit someone who has a deeper passion for engineering?

I don't know... but these questions might cross my mind if I were an admissions officer.