**Describe how your experiences, perspectives, talents, and/or your involvement in leadership activities (at your school, job, community, or within your family) will help you to make an impact both in and out of the classroom while enrolled at UT.   
(250-300 words)**

Photos are vivid illustration mediums that can help us remember special moments in our lives. The ability to freeze a moment or feeling in time is why I became passionate about photography.

My passion for photography first started when my father bought me my first DSLR camera in the second grade. Clicking the shutter release button was the most interesting part of photography. But I soon discovered that photography is more than just that, it is also about preserving memories developed through years of practice.

Throughout middle school, I remember bringing my camera everywhere. Sometimes, some of my teachers would ask me to have their photos taken and edited. That would usually take me around 1 whole night to work on editing all the event photos. I remember the teachers saying the pictures I took were great representations of moments that turn into everlasting memories and I consider that one of the best compliments I’ve received.

Although the teachers were satisfied with the pictures, I noticed these photos still lacked the balance between iso and aperture, components that control light sensitivity and intensity. Thus, I made sure to pay greater attention to these components by experimenting with different combinations during different times of the day because there are no concrete steps on how to improve, as only experience can help me improve my skills. Now, it has become second nature to know the settings for different situations like ISO 100 and an aperture of around f/11 for landscape photography whereas outdoor portrait photos use a lower ISO of 100-400 with an aperture that is typically between f/2 to f/6 depending on how many people are included in the picture. Moreover, a higher setting for ISO is only applicable for photos taken at night or at an indoor setting.

Then, I was requested by the school’s business office to become the main photographer for school events. Not only did it lead me to significantly improve on portrait and sports photography, but it also widened my perspective that memories can come out even from the smallest and seemingly least interesting things such as school programs and after-school activities.

With my developed set of photography skills, I want to continue bringing my camera around with me to help capture memories, whether it be with my friends, sports events, club socials, or random landscape shots.

Hi Catherine:

Your passion and love for photography is definitely evident to the reader in your essay.

Going back to the prompt though, it does ask you to share your experience in “leadership activities”. What this means is that in telling your story, whatever they may be, the focus needs to be on your relationship with other people.

Currently in your story, you focus on what photography means to you, what you learned, the skills you developed, and what you achieved (being the main photographer for school events). I believe the prompt asks you to focus more on the impact of your experience toward others, or the impact other people have toward yourself.

One suggested outline for you to consider is as follows:

1. Initial passion for photography
2. Your experience with photography and how that impacted your teachers and friends
3. How you developed your skills and what you learned about photography
4. Finally being selected as the main photographer and what that meant in terms of leadership
5. What impact you will bring to the UT community with your experience in photography

All the best!