**Essay #4**

Prompt #6: *Think about an academic subject that inspires you. Describe how you have furthered this interest inside and/or outside of the classroom.*

**Draft 2**

One day, I asked a friend if she had anime recommendations for me, a newcomer to the world of anime. She gave me a long list, but the mention of the title *Cells at Work* caught my ears. In my free time, I decided to give thisanime a try and watched the first episode. I was amazed by their representation of bodily cells as human beings, which made human anatomy fascinating. *Cells at Work* catalysed my passion for biology, and from there, I dove into the Mariana Trenches of the area.

Delving into the many subfields in biology required more than just listening to classroom lessons even though I took higher-level IB biology, a course known for its rigor. While simple questions such as ”why do I have black eyes?”, or “how can plants grow upwards?” could be answered in class, I longed to explore other parts of biology that were not covered in my curriculum.

With that goal in mind, I co-founded an organization with two friends that focused on educating younger generations about the life sciences. One big project I established for this organization was a podcast, named the Life-in-a-Lab Podcast. Writing episode prompts for this project made me go down internet rabbit holes for hours to look for credible sources. The most memorable episode I did was on the complicated process of fingerprinting in forensic science. Watching crime shows is a favourite pastime of mine, and I had always wondered how obtaining and processing DNA evidence worked, so I had to do hours of research relating to forensic work. Although tedious, I thoroughly enjoyed the research process. With every episode, I could quench my curiosity on many subjects and provide interesting tidbits to my listeners.

Biology can be a daunting subject; for many, the sheer complexity of the subject drains the fun out of it. Strangely, this complexity is exactly what has pushed me to become better at biology. My passion and determination to understand more intricate biological processes have sparked my interest in food microbiology and nanotechnology, areas I hope to pursue at UC Davis.

**Draft 1**

Wanting to get into anime, I decided to ask a friend for recommendations. She gave me a long list, but the mention of the title *Cells at Work* caught my ears. In my free time, I decided to give thisanime a try and watched the first episode. I was amazed at their representation of bodily cells as human beings, which made human anatomy fascinating. *Cells at Work* catalysed my passion for biology, and from there, I dove into the Mariana Trenches of the area.

Delving into the many subfields in biology required more than just listening to classroom lessons even though I took higher-level IBDP biology, a course known for its rigor. While simple questions such as ”why do I have black eyes?”, or “how can plants grow upwards?” could be answered in class, I longed to explore other parts of biology that were not covered in my curriculum.

With that goal in mind, I co-founded an organization with two friends that focused on educating younger generations about the life sciences. One big project I established was a podcast, named the “Life-in-a-Lab Podcast”. Writing episode prompts for this project made me go down internet rabbit holes for hours to look for and verify sources. The most memorable episode I did was about the extremely complicated process of fingerprinting in forensic science. Watching crime shows is a favourite pastime of mine, and I had always wondered how gaining and processing DNA evidence worked, so I had to do hours of research relating to forensic work. Although tedious, I thoroughly enjoyed the research process. With every episode, I could quench my curiosity about many subjects and provide interesting tidbits to my listeners.

Biology can be a daunting subject; for many, the sheer complexity of the subject has drained the fun out of it. Strangely, its complexity is exactly what has pushed me to become better at biology. My passion and determination to understand more intricate biological processes have sparked my interest in food microbiology and nanotechnology, areas I hope to pursue at UC.

Hi Eva,

You’ve done an excellent job revising your essay! By completely transforming your intro, you’ve showed how you engaged with biology even in your spare time. The reason why you did the podcast was now clear as well, showing that you enjoyed the process.

I added an extra line about your podcast listeners to provide another layer why you created the podcast in the first place (Sharing your interest with others? Wanting to provide knowledge to like-minded people?)

Overall, this essay is a better narration that centers around you cementing your interest in Biology ☺