**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. It 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. 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.

I would focus on what you learned in this journey (i.e. preserving memories and what that means) and tell your story from that viewpoint and finally bringing that to UT.

A suggested outline:

1. How your passion for photography started
2. Discovering the meaning/purpose behind photography: preserving memories
3. Your experience in middle school, developing your skills
4. Becoming the main photographer for school events: digging deeper into what it means to preserve memories
5. How you will make an impact in UT with what you have learned in photography

All the best!