**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)**

DRAFT 4

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 the combinations during different times of the day. At the end of every photo session, the importance of developing my skills boils down to 2 words: memories matter. Photos allow us to look back on life’s ordinary joys and special occasions that are often overlooked and forgotten as fast as they come.

With my developed set of photography skills, I want to continue bringing my camera around to help capture memories, whether with my friends, sports events, club socials, or random landscape shots. I believe preserving these moments can help me take a backward glance at why every moment can be special and worth living and I hope to influence my friends in appreciating all the captured memories as something more than just pictures.