1. USC faculty place an emphasis on interdisciplinary academic opportunities. **Describe something outside of your intended academic focus about which you are interested in learning.** (max. 250 words)

The environment had always piqued my interest, but especially so when I entered high school. It was when a surge of articles covering the deaths of whales due to the consumption of marine litter were published; this was a huge wake-up call to the distressing state of our environment. The common idea “If not us, then who?” in the community struck a chord and established a great sense of responsibility. It prompted me to not only make lifestyle changes, but also to protest in the streets to push for systemic change.

Discovering that my school provided Environmental Systems & Societies as an IBDP class further amplified this interest; I burst with excitement about how the knowledge I obtained there could be implemented in everyday life. For instance, I’ve become vegan, I bring reusable bags everywhere, and even formed a clean-up crew in the Jakarta area. To further my studies, I plan to take GE-C courses like “Climate Change: Science, History & Solutions” at USC. Furthermore, I hope to continue my advocacy for environmental awareness through participation in student groups like the Environmental Student Assembly and collaboration with others to create sustainable initiatives like the VegFest.

Though I may not solely direct my focus towards pursuing a career in the environmental industry, it is one of my desires want to learn and participate in the global society as a well-informed citizen, one that holistically understands the consequences of one’s actions on the environment and what one can do to contribute to sustainable change.

*Hi Alysha!*

*First of all, I’d like to say I’m wowed by your commitment for environmental sustainability/protection; it really is a testament to the respect and seriousness with which you treat your passion and interests.*

*However, even though your response directly answers the prompt, I think the substance is still not there (see comment above). I want your content to be more directed towards “how can my passion for environmental sustainability be integrated to and leverage my intended core studies of Film & Television,” rather than just listing the ABCs you did.*

*Keep up the good work and I look forward to seeing a stronger draft next!*

*- Matthew*