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 (250 words).***

Quentin Tarantino has a weird obsession with feet.

Zooming-into-the-feet shots are indeed his signature, but behind this eccentric approach lies the most compelling form of storytelling: sound design. From footsteps in *Inglorious Basterds* to shoe taps in *Pulp Fiction,* these details bring each scene to life. Tarantino left a deep impression; one that inspired me to delve into the minuscule, yet significant aspects of sound design in creative filmmaking.

Noticing how radio-like audio in Tarantino’s movies complement the “retro” 70s era, I grew fond of the evolution behind sound and visuals. This inspired me to produce a short film titled “Date Night,” by utilizing static-grunge effects for narration. Minoring at USC’s Cinematic Arts, I hope to explore courses such as *Animation Theory and Techniques (CTAN 450a)* where traditional methods intersect with technology to create subtle effects essential between dialogues. Further, I hope to participate in live productions through courses like *Practicum in Television Production (CTPR 409),* which exposes me to USC’s valued emphasis on hands-on learning.

USC will open unparalleled opportunities for me to engage with faculty members with expertise in various academic and practical fields. Watching Professor Midge Costin’s documentary, “Making Waves: The Art Of Cinematic Sound,” urged me to learn how audio conveys a psychological connection between the screen and the audience; an unconventional perspective that resonates with me as a film enthusiast. I look forward to becoming a part of a creative community to discover how the subtleties of media production contribute to films we see today.