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 has always piqued my interest, but especially so when I entered high school. With the prevalence of social media comes two topics that constantly arise: climate change and sustainability, be it through news articles or posts made by activists the likes of Greta Thunberg and the Wijsen sisters, reminding me of small deeds I can accomplish that make a positive impact on the environment. It established a great sense of responsibility as a Gen-Z global citizen, realizing that we only have a short time frame to make substantial progress towards preventing permanent effects of climate change. A common idea in the community was “if not us, then who?”, which struck a chord. I was implored to contribute, and as an individual who decided to explore this interest, I’ve heavily reduced plastic consumption, become vegan, and even established a public area clean-up crew.

Finding out that my school provided Environmental Systems & Societies as a DP class further amplified this interest; grasping the science behind how the atmosphere contributes to climate change heightened the ever-present trepidation, and studying value systems helped me understand the various perspectives people hold when it comes to conserving the environment. I was bursting with excitement about how the knowledge I obtained in the class could be implemented in everyday life.

In the near future, if the stars align and my circumstances allow it, I would enter environmental studies in a heartbeat. Though I may not solely direct my focus towards pursuing a career in that industry, I want to 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.

Additionally, the filmmaking skills that I would cultivate in USC would allow me to integrate my interests in film and environmental studies through documentary filmmaking, capturing the natural world around us with a deeper understanding.