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. Articles and posts made by activists the likes of Greta Thunberg and the Wijsen sisters on social media constantly remind me of deeds I can accomplish to positively contribute to the environment. A common idea in the community was “if not us, then who?”, which struck a chord and established a great sense of responsibility. I was implored to contribute, hence I’ve reduced plastic consumption, become vegan, and even formed 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 environmental conservation. I was bursting with excitement about how the knowledge I obtained in class could be implemented in everyday life.

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.

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 with a deeper understanding.