[*What experiences (academic, service, or professional) have prepared you for college studies at Evergreen?]*

Ever since childhood I sought experience and adventure. My dogs and I were able to find the wildest places in our world just in the far reaches of my boyhood property with some new problem or puzzle awaiting me around every rock and tree. It would be remiss if I didn’t pay some sort of homage to my childhood for making me the man I am today, I find that true and meaningful learning comes through genuine experience, and there is nothing more genuine than childhood.

When I graduated high school I was set on getting into the world and learning from it what I could. Accepting a job right out of high school to sell security systems door to door sounded like an opportunity my naïve mind couldn’t pass up and before I knew it I was in California knocking on doors only to have them promptly shut before having a chance to speak. In those months and on those streets, I saw the best and the worst parts in people. Every night while I lay in bed I felt the pangs of childhood persistence and the yearning to attain the goals I had set for myself, a yearning that we each mustn’t lose. As I made my egress from that chapter of my life earlier than I had expected, I walked away feeling invigorated rather than disheartened. I had learned that life will be tumultuous with few rights or wrongs, and that respect is a powerful universal language.

My time spent working for the environmental agency*, Bionomics*, was the first glimpse into the future that I wanted to make for myself. Working with talented and committed individuals that had a true respect for this world offered some of the most valuable times of my life. Not only did I get to see the inner workings of a thoughtful company that wanted to do some meaningful environmental work, I was taken in and given a wealth of knowledge that I find to be priceless.

From what I have gathered through reading about Evergreen, from spoken word, and spending time on your campus and with your Alumni, I’ve found Evergreen to be a place that values team work, free thought and ingenuity. In a time that requires us to simultaneously remember our roots and look forward to where our branches will spread, I find Institutions such as Evergreen to be essential, and I look forward to being a part of it.