Jaqueline Martinez

Personal Statement

1. **Describe the most significant challenge you have faced and the steps you have taken to overcome this challenge. How has this challenge affected your academic achievement?**

When we were kids, we believe everything we were told, as we grew up, we learn to tell lies from the truth, and as we grew into adults we learn not trust. At 15 years old a young naïve girl believed that the hardest part of her journey would be battling a medical illness. As that same girl looks back a year later, she realizes that it wasn’t her being naïve or even optimistic, but it was her believing what she was told by everyone. An 8-month battle finally won didn’t feel like a victory, but rather a disappointment. It wasn’t that she wanted to stay sick, but the fact that that 15-year-old had to get used to seeing herself in the mirror everyday with half a swollen face telling herself this was her life. Knowing that one step out of a front door meant attention to an already struggling girl with self-esteem issues.

A struggle of fighting for her health meant seeing grades suffer. Those grades that would determine her future would have to be fought too. Between doctor visits and missing class, it became apparent that it was hard managing. Eventually, I slowly began to be able to manage both problems. Although it is apparent that my grades suffered, I knew that I gave it my all. At the end of the school year I learned that time managing was key to keeping up.

In the end,

1. **Describe an example of your leadership experience in which you have positively influenced others, helped resolve disputes or contributed to group efforts over time.**
   1. Being part of yearbook has taught me more than I could have imagined. In the 2 years that I have been part of this club I’ve learned how to manage my time, become a team leader, and how to communicate with my peers better.

In yearbook, communication is the key to making things run smoothly. Because yearbook is made up of different grade level high school students, its important that each grade level can communicate with each other without any problem. In communication with other clubs I also try to step up and try to reach out.

Yearbook is all about timing and making sure to reach the deadline. Despite yearbook staff being very competitive with other clubs during competitions holidays we manage to keep work and play work. However, this means that because not all the time is spent on the yearbook alone, we have to learn to still be able to do the work without letting competitors get on the way. There are times in yearbook where the time is running out and someone either steps up to help manage things or everything becomes a disaster. We can’t rely on just one person to keep things in charge because everything is so chaotic, and everyone is needed in different places.

Yearbook taught me to have to learn well with different types of people during different environments whether that be in a calm or chaotic environment. It also taught me that there’s time when you have to take matters into your own hands and help manage the club.

1. **Think about an academic subject that inspires you. Describe how you have furthered this interest inside and/or outside of the classroom.**

I’ve always had a keen interest in science specifically DNA and cells. Perhaps it was my illness that gave me the push I needed to actually pursue this career in the long run or perhaps it’s all the things a person can discover about themselves through science.

In order to further my interest in this subject I have taken steam classes mainly focused on biology. Through this course I learned more about the heart and how we affect the heart rate with every movement that we make. I learned more about the heart waves and what each wave meant.

Additionally, I have been volunteering at Hollywood Presbyterian Hospital. I decided to volunteer here because I wanted to widen the opens of science. Although I know I want to study biology, I believe that volunteering at the hospital and getting to interact with the patients was a good experience especially since I want to study science.

Furthermore, in school I took all the rigorous science classes my school offered.

1. **Beyond what has already been shared in your application, what do you believe makes you stand out as a strong candidate for admissions to the University of California?**
   1. There are points in life where a single action defines who you are, what make you who you are. Whether it’s good or bad it eventually shapes us into the person we are today.

Home. Home taught me that there are point in life when you can’t let your past dictate who you are or what you become. We are always told to not complain about our pain, but what others don’t realize is that in the end pain can either make you stronger or weaker. Before my 9th birthday I knew what the cry of my mother at night meant. What the scream outside of the living room were about. What the sounds of broken glass meant. At the age of 16 I had been abandoned by my father more times than I could count. All my life I’ve been told that my past defined me. Home taught me that my greatest talent is my \_\_\_. My past does define who I have become because I know what

School. School taught me that you can’t give up on anything.