

My favorite thing has always been movies. My love of film is one of my few consistent defining qualities. I could talk about the art of film for the rest of my life and never get tired of it; I understand what a privilege it is to have found such a passion. Throughout high school, I sought out and took advantage of numerous opportunities that will be beneficial to reaching my dream: *working in the film industry, and ultimately becoming a successful director*. Throughout my involvement in various projects, I've taken on different roles, worked with different kinds of people, and constantly been reminded of the "what if." I understand pursuing a creative career is difficult, so *what if* it doesn't work out? It would be more practical to say film is just my hobby. However, even when being reminded of the challenges of this career path, I can't help but feel that it's worth it.

One of my favorite actors made a speech about why he decided to work in film. Jim Carrey concluded by saying, "You can fail at what you don't want, so you might as well take a chance on doing what you love." After hearing this quote, it made me think about times I've felt discouraged about my unconventional dream. I thought about how I wouldn't want to fail at anything, but how much worse it would be to fail on top of knowing I didn't try to do what I love. I keep hearing how lucky I am to already know what I want to do with my future. While I don't take that for granted, now the challenge is, how am I going to get there? After significant research, and advice from all sorts of people, I have found that the truth is, *there is no right answer, and my future is up to me*. I have decided that going to college would be the most beneficial next step for reaching my goal. I want to continue learning, in hopes of becoming a successful director and a well-rounded, educated member of society. I will do everything in my power to achieve my goal.

For the past three summers, I've participated in film camps, at Cleveland State University and Ohio University. Not only was I happy to be learning and working on short films, but I felt complete. The people I met felt like "my people," and I finally understood that expression. *How could I not spend my life doing this?* I've had the honor of working with Kara White, *13-time Emmy award winning director*, who has been a tremendous mentor, and Cynthia Booker, who is also an *Emmy award winner*. Mrs. Booker's Digital Video Production classes, which I've taken for the past three years, have been an enormous help to my knowledge of post-production, and technical filmmaking.

Frequently, I imagine myself living in California, making movies I'm proud of, and how happy I would be with my life if everything worked out that way. I don't want that to be just a fantasy. I believe this is what I'm meant to do, and going to college will open a plethora of opportunities. I've never felt more passionate about anything in my life. Film is everything: emotional, relatable, and entertaining; it's an extremely powerful art. I have to say, the greatest quality film possesses, is being able to change perspectives. Film evokes empathy, which is something more people need. Empathy is so important, and if I can create something that makes people feel for others, then that will be my greatest contribution to society. When I think about who I want to be, I can say with certainty, *I am a person that will not give up*, especially on my dream. If being a director is what I want to do, I could live a thousand lifetimes and always decide to try.