

Essay Guide for Michael L. Lomax Application Essay And Sample Career Interest Essay

Essay Instructions & Checklist: Draft your essay in WORD or Google Docs. Proofread, and correct all errors in spelling and grammar, etc. Be sure to address each point or question listed below. Copy & paste your final draft into the essay box provided in the application. Stay within the word limit given in the application (500 words or whatever number given).

Please submit a one-page personal statement of career interest.

1. State your career interests and goals; meaning, indicate how you want to make a living throughout your adult life.
2. How old were you when your career interests and career goals first came about? What and/or Who inspired your career interests and the career goals you have set?

Example: “In the 5th grade, I received a camera for my birthday and started taking pictures at every special family occasion. For weddings, graduations, birthday parties, holiday gatherings, and more, I was there with my camera. When I gave my family members and friends the photos of what were some of the most important moments of their lives, their eyes lit up and big bright smiles beamed from their faces. My camera and I brought about a burst of joy. Ever since, I have wanted to become a professional photographer.”

3. Describe any articles, books, videos, classes, internships, and/or job experiences that have helped you to learn more about the career field you have chosen to pursue.
4. Explain how you plan to give back to your community through your work in your career field of interest. Who do you want to inspire and help by working in the career field that interests you?

Sample Career Interest Essay

As a freshman music major at Lane College in Jackson, Tennessee, I am continuing my path towards becoming a professional singer. I aspire to work as a professional singer and recording artist, performing a variety of musical genres including rhythm and blues, gospel, and jazz. I want to have a recording contract with a legitimate record label and travel the country and around the world on concert tours. This is the life that I see for myself.

Throughout my childhood in my hometown of Indianapolis, Indiana, I was involved in music. My first opportunity to sing in my church choir came when I was 5 years of age. Like so many other African American music artists, I view gospel music as my root.

When I turned 8, it was clear to me that having a successful singing career is what I wanted. Music was my everything, and I just could not stop singing. I would sing in class while I was doing my assignments. Sometimes, my classmates complained that I was being a distraction, but that did not stop me. I would sing at home, at church, on the bus, in the car, everywhere. Songs by China Anne McClain were some of my favorites, and I just could not stop. If I felt alone, I would sing so that people would notice me and show more concern for my feelings.

Being bullied was a constant from third grade to sixth grade. It made me feel horrible, and when I felt I could not take it anymore, singing saved me again and again. Music was and continues to be my safe place, and this is why it is my career choice.

My mentors have also influenced me to pursue music professionally. My music teachers and family members encouraged me to sing in talent shows and at school events. They told me I was good enough to perform with a choir and as a soloist. My parents and grandparents are singers too, and thanks to their support, I have studied music formally since I was in first grade. They paid for all my years of voice lessons and enrolled me in Indianapolis's Performing Arts Conservatory which gave me the chance to perform at lots of places over the years including the Suicide Prevention Walk in Indianapolis, Kings Island Amusement Park in Cincinnati, and Carnegie Hall in New York.

After I earn my bachelor's degree at Lane, I plan to further my studies in graduate school. Once I start to perform professionally, I will donate financial support to the Conservatory in Indianapolis and use my music to help people physically and mentally by performing music that is therapeutic, inspiring, and a safe place for people the way that music has been a safe place for me.