

Ramon Garcia
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WLC 300

Personal Statement

I am going to be Japanese Major soon. It did not take me a long time to make this decision. In high school I took Japanese as my foreign language requirement. I later joined the Japanese Club that the high school had. With the club I went to Japan for a week, and there I realized how much I did not know and how much I could improve. So I decided to make Japanese my major. So I continued with it for the rest of high school and I took two classes of Japanese at MPC. I took a small break from when I finished the two classes that MPC offered and now I am at CSUMB continuing taking Japanese. My inspiration for taking Japanese might be the teacher that I had in high school. He also did the Japanese program, here at CSUMB, so deciding to come school here to continue my education career was a pretty simple choice. What really made an impression on me was that in one of the first classes, he said something along the lines of, "I know learning Japanese is going to be tough, and it was for me too, but unlike other teachers, I'm not Japanese. So I know all the struggles that you will have." Early on this was something that stuck with me. It was really helpful to learn Japanese from a foreigner, since he knew about the struggles of learning a language with teachers that did not really pay attention to something like that. Other than that I have not met someone else that has really motivated me to study Japanese, it has mostly been self motivated. Now, back to the week that I was in Japan, I felt really lost, not like I did not know where I was, but lost as in, I felt really strange, like I could do something to change that situation that I was in. So right there was another reason why I wanted to pursue a Japanese Major. What I really want to do when I major in Japanese is be able to help people when they are in Japan. As of now I have not really decided what I want to do exactly, but coming to CSUMB, I know that by the time that I leave I will have a clear idea on what I want to do. I plan on studying abroad and I think this will also help me decide on what I want to do.

I have met many people in the different Japanese classes that I have taken. In the first week of class the teacher always seems to ask, "why are you taking Japanese?" and the answers are pretty much similar. They say things like, "because I like anime, or because I have seen every single Ghibli movie, or because I like sushi" and these reasons are always interesting to hear. My answer is also one of those that I mentioned above. Now, although I do not know what I want to do the major. I like helping people and I think that being able to communicate in Japanese will be something that I will enjoy if I pursue it as a career. I have heard couple of jobs that sound interesting and that I am looking in to. A teacher is the first one, but I do not think that it is the right job for me. However, what my first Japanese teacher told our class might spark something in me and I might decide to become a teacher. The others are International relations or working for the UN where I will see a lot of diversity. All these things interest me, but I still do not have a good idea on what I really hope to pursue just yet. So hopefully when I study abroad next year I will have a better idea of what I want to do. Japanese is a pretty tough language and I think that here at CSUMB I will do my best.

I come from a family of five, my mom and dad, an older and younger sister and myself. My parents did not go to college, they both came from Mexico for a better life and they found it here in Salinas. I am the second in my family to attend college. The first was my older sister. I have lived in Salinas pretty much all my life and lived in the same house for almost 20 years. We are a working class family, both my parents, my older sister and I all work. My parents and I

work for D'Arrigo Bros. here in Salinas in different capacities and my sister works as an office assistant. I would consider our family to be very lucky with all of us having jobs and all of us being able contribute with paying bills and paying for other things like food and other necessities. My parents have been helpful and encouraging with my studies. They have made sure that I have everything that I need in order to be successful in school. I have never needed anything in my life and I am very thankful that my parents have been able to help me out with everything that I need.