**AMA Exit Portfolio**

Sample Student

Engelbert

English 12 AMA

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**ARTIFACTS**

* **MEDALS**

I used to hate running, and I decided that I wanted to complete a half marathon because I wanted to work towards a goal that would take time and training. After my first race, The San Diego Wild Animal Park Half Marathon, I fell in love with running after that and completed four more half marathons. After five, I got burned out on running. However, after seeing so many of the Lawndale students and teachers finish the LA Marathon, I decided that I am going to try to finish the race next year.

* **SCRIPTS**

I’ve always been interested in writing, and this year I decided to take my interest to another level. I’ve completed several writing courses geared for the television industry. This year, I completed my pilot “On the Floor” and held two staged readings at Improv Olympic West in Hollywood. Over the summer, I hope to film key scenes and pitch the show to Amazon studios.

* **BASKETBALL JERSEY**

Anyone who knows me knows that comedy is very important to me. I play on a basketball team called “The Princess Lay-ups” with Ms. Piller. My teammates are all creative women working in the entertainment industry. The league is comprised of 24 teams of differing ability levels. Honestly, this league is the most fun I’ve had in a long time.

**PRIDE ASSIGNMENTS**

1. ***BRAVE NEW WORLD* NURSERY RHYME**

While I found the novel *Brave New World* to be very strange, I enjoyed the discussions over real world issues that came up in class. One assignment we completed was making our own propaganda nursery rhyme inspired by Hemholtz’ “ending is better than mending” and “everyone belongs to everyone else” verses. The one that I wrote and included in my digital portfolio explored the pressures that high school seniors feel to go to college and fit into a particular path. (ACADEMIC)

**2.) THE MOVING OUT PROJECT**

In Mr. Korn’s economics class, I had to complete a project where I researched how much it would cost to live the life I want to live. I really feel like this was the most useful project I’ve ever completed in school. I learned how expensive an apartment will be, a car payment, and everything else that goes along with being an adult. Now I realize that I need to get a good job to afford the life that I want.

(ACADEMIC)

1. ***HAMLET* TRAILER**

For senior English, we had the read *Hamlet.* At first, I was really intimidated because it was hard to understand, but watching the movie really helped. At the end, I created a movie trailer with a few of my classmates. It was really fun to act out some of the more violent scenes from the play: the murder of Claudius, Ophelia’s death, and the poison scene at the end. I’m glad I took Mr. Love’s editing class because our project was really good, and I was really proud of how it turned out.

(ACADEMIC)

1. **COMMUNITY FILM**

In Mr. Love’s Advanced Film Class, I made a film about how drugs affect the coomunity at Lawndale. When I was completing the project, I got the chance to interview people and learn about their perspectives. Also, I had no idea so many kids had experimented with drugs. Our film turned out really well; the most challenging part was choosing music to match the tone of the film.

(ELECTIVE)

1. **BAND WINTER CONCERT**

In January, I performed a solo with the jazz band during the winter concert. (I play the tenor saxaphone). I was really nervous beacause I’ve never performed a solo in front of people before. My solo was really difficult, and a bunch of people came up to me after and complimented me. This experience helped me realize that I want to continue to follow my passion for music in addition to my dreams of being an engineer.

(ELECTIVE)

**\*All pieces of evidence are in the google folder.**

**PATHWAY EXPLORATION**

I’ve really enjoyed my four years in AMA. Over the course of the school year, I’ve gotten to take many elective and academic classes geared towards my career goal of being a director in Hollywood. Even though I know it will be a long road to get there, I feel like the AMA has allowed me the opportunity to learn skills now that will help me later. Some of the highlights of my past four years include:

* Helping out at Tech Leimert my senior year and learning about cryptocurrency
* Doing makeup/costume design for *Autonomy*
* Going on the Warner Brothers Studio tour and seeing artifacts from some of my favorite movies
* Listening to the director of the movie *DOPE* discuss his inspirations for the film
* Attending the AMA Banquet last year

However, the best part of AMA by far are the friends I’ve made. Nothing brings you closer than working on a film after school for several hours, talking, and grabbing food together. I know that the friendships that I’ve made will last a lifetime.

Being a part of AMA during my high school career has helped shape me as an artist and a person. As an artist, I have learned how to convey my view of the world through a camera lens. As a person, I have learned how to collaborate with others and the importance of following through on a project. I know these two skills I have acquired will serve me well in future endeavors.

**LITERARY PASSAGE**

*Into the Wild* tells the true story of Chris McCandless, a wanderer ticked off by society who retreated to the woods to commune with nature. Specifically, he wrote a letter to Ronald Franz in which he gave life advice:

“I'd like to repeat the advice that I gave you before, in that I think you really should make a radical change in your lifestyle and begin to boldly do things which you may previously never have thought of doing, or been too hesitant to attempt. So many people live within unhappy circumstances and yet will not take the initiative to change their situation because they are conditioned to a life of security, conformity, and conservatism, all of which may appear to give one peace of mind, but in reality nothing is more damaging to the adventurous spirit within a man than a secure future. The very basic core of a man's living spirit is his passion for adventure. The joy of life comes from our encounters with new experiences, and hence there is no greater joy than to have an endlessly changing horizon, for each day to have a new and different sun.”

This passage had a profound effect on me. Everyday, we are surrounded by people who say they are going to do something, but they never have to courage to actually go out and do it. This speech really pumped me up when I read it, and it still encourages me to follow my dreams. I feel like reality and expectations keep us from being who we truly are, and we must cast security aside to truly enjoy life.

**SOUNDTRACK**

**ANYTHING JOHN WILLIAMS**

I love soundtrack music. I play it all time. It relaxes me and keeps me focused. When I’m working, I can’t listen to music that has words. Plus, movie music makes me ambitious. In particular, I love the scores of *Interstellar, OZ, Great and Powerful,* and *Pompeii.* These three scores are full of fast melodies and slow bridges. They are the best.

**WAKE UP *by Arcade Fire***

This is has to be my favorite song of all time. The song captures childhood innocence and the corruption of the human spirit. When I think of this song, I think of being with my friends at Coachella 2014, when Arcade Fire was closing out the whole festival. The producers of the show turned the lights out on then band because they went over their time limit, and the band took to the grass where all the fans are and continued to play. It was magical. As the crowd sung the chorus “Whoa, whoa…”, Win Butler (the lead singer) kept saying “Don’t Miss Out” in a bullhorn. I will remember that moment for as long as I live.

**WHOLE WORLD *by Outkast***

I like this song because I associate New Orleans and Mardi Gras with it. This song has a cool throwback jazzy vibe that I think stands apart from other Outkast songs. Furthermore the theme of racial profiling is very prevalent in this song. It showcases how society treats certain people like monkeys who do tricks for money/acceptance. The Whole World wants you to act a certain way and be a certain way. Outkast is saying, “No way!”

**MY VERSE**

A long time ago, I had an acting teacher give me a quote that has pretty much inspired the entirety of my life:

**Do your work.**

**Live your dreams.**

**Live your dreams in your work.**

Her words have always inspired me to find a balance in life. When a person graduates high school, he takes the next expected step, which is to attend college. At this phase of life, a person has to decide whether to study something that will make him money or something that he will enjoy. If a person is really lucky, he will find both.

I became a teacher for many reasons: summers off, the chance to be on my own boss, putting on a show everyday where I know every moment is the “audience” is enjoying it or hating it. And let’s face it: I spend all day learning about different things and hanging out with cool teenagers. Somewhere along the line, I’ve found a balance between a job I enjoy and a job that gives me a comfortable lifestyle.

Once you graduate college, life is not all rainbows and boxes of puppies; it’s struggle for financial stability, personal identity, and dream-searching. I’ve happy to have found a career that brings me fulfillment and still allows me time to act on my dreams within a job. My greatest hope is that my students will find the same balance.

I hope that when students think of me, they regard me as a passionate individual with drive, ambition, and respect for all people. I have highs and lows like all people, but the end of the day, I want students to feel safe to be themselves and go after what they want.