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### **Personal Statement**

Growing up in a predominantly Asian area, I was always somewhat familiar with certain foods and aspects of certain Asian cultures. However, it wasn't really until I switched schools in 6th grade that I was able to learn more about them fully. Fortunately, in high school, Japanese was offered as a second language we could take. I was eager to take the class and begin to learn about the country/culture I had become so captivated by. After only a year of taking Japanese, I realized that I wanted to be a Japanese language and culture major. I had come to see how beautiful the language was, how rich the history was, the beauty of its landscape/geography, my love for anime, Japanese music, its food, and Japan's traditional and modern fashion. It felt like I was learning of a whole new world or galaxy that I couldn't stay away from.

While during my time at CSUMB, I learned that I wanted to head in a completely different direction with my career than I originally thought I wanted; aka a translator and interpreter. I learned that I'm still growing and I shouldn't limit myself with my education and knowledge just because I'm struggling or feel like I've hit a roadblock. I also learned how to better work within teams and groups, as well as how to problem solve and multitask; as it is heavily emphasized here. Being at CSUMB has also taught me how important networking is and how connecting with people who speak the native language can greatly improve your skills in all aspects. Through the Japanese courses I have taken, I have learned an immense amount about culture and history. In my Japanese 213 class, we learned about the use of WW2 propaganda in early anime and manga, how the civilian conflicts with the government shaped modern-day Japan, and how anime and manga reflect the current mindset of Japan's youth. In my service learning class, I learned how to work within a team better and handle a hectic environment using management skills and an understanding of handling children.

My original career goal was to work for the government, specifically the United Nations, however, I realized around my sophomore year that I didn't think I'd be happy in that field. I now know that I wish to work within the art world. In fact, I am in talks to hopefully work at an art auction house back home in Los Angeles. My ultimate goal is to work in a field where I can use the language I love and use my knowledge of that language's culture, yet also be able to express myself without having to constrict how I

look. I believe that working in a field that allows you freedom creates greater happiness for ourselves. I also hope that through my newfound passion for art, I can learn to inspire myself to achieve greater things, express myself more, and possibly pursue passions or hobbies I did not previously seriously consider. I look forward to continuing my growth as a person and in my career. I will miss CSUMB and always cherish the lessons it has taught me throughout my 5 years there.