

## UC Essay (No.2)

Tell us about a personal quality, talent, accomplishment, contribution or experience that is important to you. What about this quality or accomplishment makes you proud, and how does it relate to the person you are?

My experience in tennis and participation in a comedy competition have changed the course of my life and how I view the world.

I have received a trophy only once in my whole life as a singles tennis player. People say it was just once or too late because it was the very last tournament for me, but I learned a very precious lesson from this experience: the great achievement comes with the great pain.

Although I had played tennis for ten years, I had been a loser. Most of the time, I lost. Generally, the longer you play tennis, the better you get. Unfortunately that didn't happen to me but to everyone else. In fact, it was not "unfortunate" but "natural" that I couldn't get a title because I obviously didn't make any effort. I was such a quitter who ran away from everything painful and hard. When I realized this, I changed myself. I decided to believe in the power of making effort for the first time in ten years. I established two things to do every single day: waking up every morning at 5 a.m. to clean the entrance of my house, and doing the additional training menu that I made just for myself after tennis practice. Those were all for quitting to be "quitter". I literally did all of those things everyday regardless of how bad my condition was.

In my last game as a tennis player, I finally won a high school championship in men's singles. I still remember the moment I received the trophy as a singles tennis player. Although it was made of cheap plastic, for me it did feel heavy somehow because I learned very valuable lesson about importance of making effort.

Another experience that irrevocably changed my life is the national high school comedy competition that I participated with my friend in Japan. This is the competition of "Manzai", unique Japanese comedy style performed by two people. I am proud that we went

up to the semi-final because I gained very valuable insight which dispelled my lack of confidence in my comedy. Until this competition, we only had shown our comedy to the people in high school, so I wasn't sure if I was truly funny. In this competition, however, people who were laughing were not those I knew. They were laughing at the things I thought was funny. This experience actually took away something hanging in my heart weirdly for a long time, and now I have some confidence that I am capable of making people laugh.

These two experience look irrelevant, but without any of these, I wouldn't be dreaming about a movie director. I wouldn't even be writing these statements in this country. Those two confidences led me to this United States and allow me to pursue my big dream with stable faith.