

UT Austin essay

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Special Circumstances essay

In my life, I have had three important experiences that changed my perspective of life: comedy performance, English, and withdrawal from the previous university. These events have given me the courage to trust myself under any circumstances.

As a comedian, I performed comedy on stage for more than three years, which means I wrote countless different drafts of the performance script. Throughout this long-time experience, I learned that the ideas always come from memories. The story and characters always connect with the small fragment of one's experience and knowledge. For example, since when I was a little kid, I had kept thinking that one trifle decision could dramatically change my life; one's future would change depending on what to order at the restaurant or when to go to the bathroom. From this idea, I made a script of a school play that described a man who got the life-map tried to make a right decision at every crossroad to achieve his dream. This school play won a best school play in high school. Likewise, I got a lot of ideas for the comedy performance from the true stories and people that I encountered in the past. From these experiences as the scriptwriter, I am convinced that I need to study not only film skills but also, a wide variety of areas to become a movie director, and get involved in many activities to understand the world. This is the reason I jumped to the United States from Japan and decided to learn at the community college where I can study basic knowledge about the world.

Secondly, before I came to the United States, I had been studying English every day just by myself for more than twelve hours a day. This made me realize how passionate I could be toward my dream. Hoping to study film at UT Austin, I devoted myself to studying

English to obtain the required score on TOEFL. In spite of this dedication, my scores did not improve at all for the first three months, and I often felt like I was wandering in the darkness that wouldn't lead me to the light. However, I never gave up. I woke up in the morning at five a.m. and studied English until my work at three p.m. After seven hours working, I went back home and started studying again for more than three hours. I spent every day like this for almost five months. At the last two tests, my score dramatically increased one by one and finally reached the goal. I am still surprised that I kept studying for just one test for five months without giving up. More interestingly, it was never once a pain to study TOEFL, because I had a big and clear goal for the first time in my life, and I enjoyed taking steps toward achieving it. This experience showed me that I have a strong gut to pursue my dream no matter what obstacles await me.

Finally, my most significant memory is when I turned in the withdrawal notification to the Keio University. At that moment when the officer pressed the approval stamp on the paper, my new life started. Quitting this university was the biggest decision I had ever made. This university was one of the greatest schools in Japan; once you get a degree at this school, you have the assurance of getting a decent job and spending a stable life in Japan. However, I chose to abandon this privilege because I found a dream for the first time in my life: being a movie director. When I discovered the fact that UT Austin's film program had the amazingly wide variety of film courses that couldn't be seen any universities in Japan, I was convinced that this school was the place that would help me step boldly into my future career. At the end of March, I visited the admission office at the Keio University with a piece of paper that would turn my life upside down. I still remember the surprised look the university officer gave me; I still remember my feeling when I looked back at the beautiful campus I would leave for good. At that moment, I had nothing. I had no reputation. I had no promise of anything. I felt like I was thrown into the wilderness that never ends. At the same time,

however, I was excited to think about what would be waiting for me in the future. Then I swore myself to change the Japanese film industry at any price.

I treasure all these experiences because I know that all of these events will give me the courage for the rest of my life. Whenever I have anxiety about my future or I face hardship, I always look back these memories to motivate myself.