**Julia Lemus**

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1. **What is the one thing that you think sets you apart from other candidates applying to the University of California?**

This past summer, I became a student ambassador for my high school and traveled to Japan for 10 days. In Japan, I was able to experience a completely different culture and immerse myself in a new way of learning. I was able to be hands-on in my experience of being an ambassador and take advantage of the opportunity that was given to me. This was a very new experience for me, but I soon got comfortable with my host family and I became open to trying new things and facing my fears in an unfamiliar cultural setting.

**2. Every person has a creative side, and it can be expressed in many ways: problem solving, original and innovative thinking, and artistically, to name a few. Describe how you express your creative side.**

My creative side comes down to my ability to connect any two things together. Often I like to write to pass the time, and I love to connect two things that can’t be more different. In school, I use connections to learn things and help my bad memory. Usually, I’ll connect and group things according to when they happen or similarities they have. For things that are vastly different from each other, I connect them to other things until I find a similarity between the original two things. For example, to memorize an algebraic formula, I may look at its variables and link them to a Gestalt pattern that I learned about in psychology. That way, I am able to remember things I learned in two classes. To express this, I like to come up with creative ways for my friends and I to remember and learn things. I often pass the time thinking innovatively to find connections in the material I am learning. It is my own way to learn creatively and effectively.

 **3. Describe your favorite academic subject and explain how it has influenced you.**

My favorite academic subject is history, because like the old adage says, “history repeats itself”. It is incredible to see how our ancestors lived, and how we mimic them using the advancements in technology we have today. In history class, I often find myself thinking on the things we have now and how that will affect our future. Many small actions made in a split second have had enormous effects in our history, which influences me to believe that there is no action too small that we can do to impact our future. History is so diverse and gives us insight in how cultures, religions, and lifestyles came to be, which is so fascinating to me. It is also an influence in our present, as we either try to base or change modern times off of it. While learning about history, I imagine what kind of influence people thought they would have, and the influence they ended up having due to their actions. Not just the biggest actions provide the biggest results.

**4. Describe how you have taken advantage of a significant educational opportunity or worked to overcome an educational barrier you have faced.**

I grew up on a bilingual education, because that is what my school district offered. Overtime, I have realized that that was an amazing educational opportunity, and that I am able to communicate better and to more people because of it. Originally, I entered school with bilingual classes out of necessity, because I needed to learn English to be able to succeed later in life. After 9 years in the bilingual program, I was able to understand, speak, read, and write both English and Spanish. When I entered high school, I recognized that as a significant educational opportunity, as I can reach more people by knowing two languages. It helps to be able to switch from the languages when I need to help someone or give a presentation. By knowing two languages I have the opportunity to learn more and work more effectively and with more people. As for my education, I can continue it in either Spanish or English, and currently I use this opportunity to take advanced Spanish classes. I was able to get into an AP Spanish course without taking any prerequisites due to my proficiency in Spanish. Knowing more than one language is an opportunity to immerse myself in more things, such as studying abroad or translating for others. I will continue to take advantage of this opportunity because it has helped me express myself to more people.