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Personal Statement

"If being born is the greatest act of creation, then what are you supposed to do after that? Isn't everything that comes next sort of a disappointment – slowly entroy-ing until we deflate into a pile of mush." (Astral Plane, 9:48). The journey to find purpose in life has been one of the greatest struggles since the beginning of human consciousness. It is not easy to think about your own existence and your footprint that you will leave behind, but the way you live your life determines your legacy. I want to be remembered as someone who loved what he did and who was around. My passion for animals points me towards veterinarian school but determining who inspired me to create this path for myself, how to navigate it, and what to do next are all very difficult questions.

The opening quote comes from one of the most inviting and enjoyable cartoons of all time. This was said by Finn the Human from *Adventure Time*. In my opinion this is one of the most thought provoking shows of all time and I believe this show helped shape me into the person I am today. This show gave me an insight on existence as a whole and helped me to dream bigger than what I previously thought was possible. For a long time, I thought I would do something sports related with my life. I have been playing team sports for as long as I can remember, and I absolutely love it. It has taught me to work in large groups and how to motivate people to work together for a common goal. However, sports are very simple compared to finding your passion and career. I found it very difficult to find my calling in life once I left high school. It took me almost 2 years to realize that going to veterinarian school was not only possible but might be what I was searching for this whole time.

I believe the best philosophy for how to plan your life is simple. You never know what life is going to throw your way, so plan ahead and have objectives but don't freak out if everything doesn't turn out the way you envisioned. Some of my fondest memories came from just saying yes to an opportunity and working hard to make the best of that opportunity. I worked a summer job at a day boarding kennel called Pet Suites. This is an opportunity that I had to gain some experience working with animals. I worked in a group with dozens of dogs at a time and made sure everyone stayed safe. When there were injuries, I learned how to apply basic first aid and scrubbed clean all their rooms. I made a plan to gain experience in the field I was interested in, and that experience confirmed my curiosity.

Coming up with the next step to a plan is always the hardest part. Right now, I am at that point in my life where I must hunker down and grind until I can apply for veterinarian school. I am enjoying the free time, but I am also ready to do bigger things. Even if I am unable to become a veterinarian, I am confident that I will find something that will give me personal satisfaction.

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Every day I am learning more and more about myself and who I want to be. We may not realize it while it is happening, but we are constantly changing and morphing until the day we die. When I die, I want people to remember as the next Steve Erwin or David Attenborough. Those were people I looked up to and hope to emulate their passion for life on planet Earth. The opening quote is a powerful and important question, but quite somber. So, I want to end on a more positive quote by the same character, "You think the outside world is scary, well you know what's really scary? Letting fear make all your decision for you." (Islands, Part 8: The Light Cloud, 5:06) I won't let fear make my decisions for me.

References

"Astral Plane." Adventure time, created by Pendleton Ward, season 6, episode 25, Cartoon Network Studios, 2010.

"Islands, Part 8: The Light Cloud." Adventure time, created by Pendleton Ward, season 8, episode 27, Cartoon Network Studios, 2010.