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Passions Reflection

Gateway to University Honors

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**What?**

Identifying passions: one of the more tasking prompts I have been put to in my academic life. Through a decent time of deliberation I found that one of the most significant passions in my life is German. In specific, I find the language and culture very intriguing. Beyond that, I enjoy the countries that speak the language, being lucky enough to have visited Germany and Austria. Speaking the language and learning every bit I can about the life of the German people excites me and is something I love to share with others. If there is any topic that can get me thrilled, it is German.

**So What?**

German is something in my blood. Not only is it actually in my blood, as my ancestors on both sides of my family came from there, but also my direct family. My father received a Masters in German while my mother took a minor. My two older sisters also took German in college, one majoring in it and the other gaining a minor. My own story with German starts in high school. I took the language for four years and was frequently amazed by the parallels between English and its mother language. I also enjoyed the idea that learning a new language opened a door to a world I could not have known otherwise. My passion also goes into the history of the German speaking regions of Europe. I was fortunate enough to take AP European History my sophomore year and learning about the Holy Roman Empire under Charlemagne to the Prussian’s under Frederick the Great made me even more passionate and interested in German. While some kids escape their family’s interests, I embraced it. I periodically will speak in German with my family and also look at some of the German things my parents have around the house. Due to my family’s significance and my own growing intrigue in the language and culture, German is a crucial passion in my life.

**Now What?**

When I decided to pursue business in college, I saw the opportunity to continue and intertwine German into my education. I was unsure in high school what I wanted my major to be, but I knew German was something I wanted to pursue. Ultimately, business is one of the best fields with which to combine the discipline. I hope to not only take more German classes and gain even more knowledge and understanding about the language, but also develop my passion into a valuable skill for firms. I look to take courses in international business and even study abroad or co-op in a German speaking country. There are many firms around Cincinnati with German connections and I feel that business and German is a combination that many firms would like to see in potential employees. Being able to explore German culture now through the business subculture is also interesting to me as it is another way in which I can understand more about the people and even some language aspects. Being able to study or even work in Germany would be a dream, and it is something that would help grow my passion even more.