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WLC 300
Personal Statement
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I was first exposed to Japanese culture by my mom, who would use watching anime together as a way to bond with me. Having been very young when I began watching shojo anime, they taught me how to deal with difficult situations and emotions from a young age. As a result, no matter how old I got, I continued to be obsessed with watching anime. As I got older, I became more interested in Japanese culture itself, and made efforts to research culturally significant practices and items in Japanese culture.

Eventually, when I became a high school student, I learned that my school offered Japanese courses as language credits and automatically enrolled in it. Moving forward, I have my Japanese teacher to thank for expanding my knowledge of Japanese culture in ways I didn't think possible, and for teaching me how to speak fluent Japanese. By the time I was preparing for college applications, I was still unsure of what major I wanted to pursue. That was, until I received a scholarship to study abroad in Japan for the summer. Having been chosen for the scholarship over the entire senior Japanese class, I felt accomplished and excited. It was then that I realized that Japanese was also a choice of major at universities I was interested in applying to, and decided to pursue my degree at Cal State Monterey Bay.

Since coming to Cal State Monterey Bay, I have been able to improve my academic and business vocabulary, thanks to my language courses that specialize in talking about more advanced topics. I've also examined Japanese societal issues through various culture courses and a select few language courses as well. Being in the Japanese program at CSUMB has also taught me a lot about global competence, and being able to effectively communicate with other people from different cultures than my own.

Moving forward after graduation, I would like to get a position in the JET program as an International Relations Coordinator to earn experience as a translator and create connections abroad. After a couple years, I plan to return to the U.S. and apply for an internship or position as a translator and interpreter for the U.S. government. Ideally, I would like to work in international affairs so that I can help bridge the understanding between our two cultures, as well as other Asian cultures that I may also be interested in studying in the future.