

Danny Roberts

Honors 100 Assignment #1

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### Summary of My Life

My path to the UW began literally the second I entered this world. My birth took place in the UW Medical Center, and ever since then the UW has been an important place in my life. I grew up in the Roosevelt neighborhood of Seattle until I was eleven, living a typical jovial childhood under my two scientist parents with my bully of a big brother. There I was, enjoying the carefree bliss of childhood when bleak reality came along in the form of the major economic recession of 2008 and swept me and my family off our feet and on our way to Newton, a suburb of Boston. I suppose devastation is a relative term, but I'd feel that word best describes what it felt like to move away from everything and everybody I knew aside from my family. For the next two years in Newton I was bitter and stubborn, not allowing myself to open up to the virtues of the Bay State, and constantly annoying my friends with comments about Seattle's superiority regardless of the topic or its importance. Gradually I matured and realized the uselessness of always wishing I were somewhere that I could not be, and grew to love my life in Newton. But when it came time to apply to colleges, the UW was an obvious choice to consider. Although I was enticed by other schools, the UW won over all others, aided by the natural beauty of the Pacific Northwest, and the cultural progressiveness of Seattle. I decided to apply to the Honors Program because I enjoy being challenged, and was interested in the smaller, intellectually rigorous community within such a large university.

Currently, I am primarily interested in studying aeronautics and astronautics and all of its underlying subjects. Questioning in general is an essential part of the way that I think, and to me the most perplexing and absurd question that exists is simply, 'Where are we? What is this environment that we find ourselves in?' For this reason, I'm bewildered by the cosmos and universe at large, and hope that I will be able to explore as much of it as I can in my short life, and humanity can in its brief existence. Studying astronautics, I feel, will teach me the most useful information in terms of advancing humanity's ability to answer those essential questions, as well as aid our species in many other ways. However, I'd also like to explore my academic interests, because although I am passionate about science, I am also intrigued by just about every subject, be it history or ceramic arts. On a more basic level, I'd like to know what kind of person I'll become living as an individual, without the backbone of my immediate family while attending UW. I'm very excited to be able to pursue interests that before had been difficult to do with such a structured schedule and lack of freedom, namely, getting outdoors and learning to rock climb in the mountains. One of the principle reasons I came here was the incredible environment that surrounds Seattle, so I am determined to get out into the wilderness whenever I'm able. Like most, I'm eager to find 'my people,' which I'm sure will happen once I've recovered from the confusion of moving to a new place (or old?) and starting at a new school. Although there is much to discover in Seattle and at UW, I also have a strong desire to travel abroad to study, learn, and enjoy the wonders that different places and cultures hide within their borders. There has not yet been a day at UW where I feel like I do not or will not have the opportunity to do or learn something I have always wanted to, and because of that I am certain that I'll love the UW and that I made the right choice.