

As my 14th birthday approached, I had spiraled down into depression and found life meaningless. As absurd as it sounds, my parents thought of this condition as a normal phase for a teenager. After two months of fumbling through my daily routine barely eating, sleeping or talking, they began to get worried. One evening as I was watching a film comedy, my lips formed a smile that rapidly erupted into full-blown laughter. I hadn't experienced the joy of laughing in a long time, and I badly needed it. After that, I flooded myself with emotions every day – with different movies. I experienced laughter, sadness, fear and heartbreak; for the first time in the course of a long period of depression, I felt alive. Since then I have known I want to be a filmmaker. I aspire to create stories in which people can lose themselves in the plot, forget all of their worries, and feel alive through film.

I had always been keen about writing; however, I wondered if I had the imagination and skill necessary to fabricate a well-written story from scratch. To prove myself I entered several writing competitions. Although the contests were not in screenwriting, they helped me develop as a writer. [Of the six writing contests, three were for “Foro Juvenil,” which I won consecutively through writing essays. The other three were for “Don Quijote Nos Invita A Leer,” which I won in my last two years of high school. However, my crown jewel competition was Proyecto Multimedia, in which I participated in the short film category almost two years ago.] Everything that could have gone wrong during the production process went wrong, but I managed to see my project through and won a bronze medal in the continentals. Winning despite the obstacles against people from Brazil, Chile and other countries made me confident that I have the talent necessary to become successful in my line of work.

What I most wanted and needed was the best possible education, and after some research I found the perfect school: the University of Texas at Austin. Everything I read about it enthralled me: the classes, the alumni, the programs and the opportunities.

One of the few regrets I have is of not applying while in high school to the university of my choice. During the semester, as the deadline approached to submit my application to Austin, my parents talked about separating. My mother took the other kids for a month, but I stayed with my father, and instead I applied to the University of Texas at El Paso to remain close to him.

Now, after two years, with the full support of my parents, I am applying to the school of my choice. I have evolved in my career through projects such as an internship with DoubleScope Films last semester. I also helped as a volunteer on a thesis film by students at Loyola Marymount, doing script supervising and assisting as the second assistant director. And though I have learned a lot from both internships, I am ready to move forward. Movies saved me, by giving me motivation and by helping me persevere and

strive for my aspirations as a filmmaker. I believe I can achieve my goals with an education from the University of Texas at Austin.