

Indent the first sentence of each paragraph. Double space your essay.

Adding your last name and page number to the header will help the scholarship committee match your application up with your essay if they get separated.

In 1993, when I was 6 years old, Prince and Warner Bros. had a legal dispute over the artistic direction of the album *The Gold Experience*. Prince made public appearances with the word “slave” painted on his face and overtly changed his name from Prince to the infamous love symbol. “Prince is the name that my mother gave me at birth,” Prince claimed. “Warner Bros. took the name, trademarked it, and used it as the main marketing tool to promote all of the music that I wrote...I became merely a pawn used to produce more money for Warner Bros...” (*Possessed: The Rise and Fall of Prince*, Hahn). From that point on, Prince’s career went into a downward spiral, with both parties pointing fingers at one another.

At the age of 6, I didn’t pay much attention to Prince and his rebellion against Warner Bros. As I grew older, I developed an interest in music, which peaked during my high school career. I immersed myself in the performing arts, only to find that the creative ability of my peers and I was severely limited by the same laws that applied to the controversy surrounding illegal downloading of music and the legal dispute between Prince and his record label. We could not record our performances, because we were performing material written and composed by someone else who owned the rights. We had to choose our annual musical based on the cost of the script and score—a price determined by ownership of the rights. We had to be cautious about making photocopies of sheet music on which to make notes or edits, lest we violate the law.

While I had a chance to become a successful vocalist, I was and continue to be more interested in the behind-the-scenes trades of the entertainment industry—most notably, intellectual property law and contractual law, as they pertain to ownership of artistic input and output.

Coming from a family of two well-educated parents, I was expected to attend college and pursue gainful employment. My mother never found a “B” acceptable, when she knew I was fully capable of earning an “A.” Likewise, my parents never gave something to me, when they knew it should be earned. I was encouraged to accept accountability for my own education at an early age, and actively sought opportunities to get ahead in school, including AP, honors, and Dual Enrollment

Reference events that have impacted your life.

You should always cite others' work if you use it.

Reference experiences that have impacted your academic/career path.

Include information about your family's influence on your academic career.

Include information about your character.

classes. I also participated in various extracurricular activities, including Spanish Club and Choir Leadership Club. Due to my academic achievements, I was invited to become a member of the National Honor Society, which required completion of community service hours on an annual basis. I competed in regional and national choir competitions and founded an advanced women's chamber choir, which met after school. Meanwhile, I worked part-time my junior year and full-time my senior year. When I graduated from high school, I had already earned a total of 30 college credits.

← Include your extracurricular activities and achievements.

← Describe any work/community service experience you might have.

Over the two years that followed my graduation from high school, I worked full-time, while attending Chandler-Gilbert Community College. In May, 2007 I received an Associate in Arts degree and was accepted to Arizona State University as a junior. Presently, I am enthusiastically

looking forward to graduating in 2010 with a Bachelor's degree from the School of Justice and Social Inquiry, with an emphasis in Business and Sociology. I plan to pursue a law degree, which will allow me to practice law in the entertainment industry. In this way, I hope to give back to fellow

← Describe your short-term and long-term academic goals.

musicians who meet success with reservations about legal ownership of their work, while actively participating in law reform that will adequately match, and hopefully compliment, advancements in technology that provide new opportunities for distribution of art.

← Discuss what you plan to do with your degree.

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← Some scholarships require you to include your name, contact information, and ID number directly on your essay. Make sure you follow the instructions!