I was in second grade when my parents decided to move to a place called Los Angeles, California. How was I to survive in this foreign country when I didn't even know my ABC's? While trying to get accustomed to the American lifestyle, I spent my spare time watching American cartoons. Saturday morning cartoons were a must. Later in middle school, Japanese anime and manga became an obsession. This led me to a conclusion about my future: to become an animator. I thought I had my future set.

In high school I attended art classes to begin my path to become an animator. Here, I saw some extraordinary work others did. It was amazing to see how much you could do with one pencil. Seeing and learning all these different types of art made me open my eyes to a whole new world. It wasn’t just Japanese anime anymore. I began to see how much significance art held in our society. And that left me in awe and set my mind to explore art deeper. Art became not just a hobby but how I viewed the world. Unlike a math formula which gives only a single answer to a problem, art allowed me to bring many new and unique answers through experimentation.
My dad was a man of innovation and influenced my way of thinking. He used to be a pastor in Korea who had many eccentric ideas. Still, no matter how ingenious he might’ve been at work, my dad and I clashed at home. My art studio provided space for me to escape the strict and trapped-feeling environment. Mismatching cultures and viewpoints made a great impact on my artwork. In a way, I was never neither this nor that. Not fully American but not fully Korean either. It occurred to me that this is what makes me who I am. Irony is quite common is today’s society. I inquire new matters and express myself in a different way.

Innovative and risk-taking artists open doors for everyone to escape our dull and depressed world. By partaking in art, I also want to make a difference and contribute to society. There is much room left for me to mature, as a person and as an artist. To bring fresh ideas, you need to be curious; be willing to ask questions and respond with a proposal out of the norm. Through art, I found that I could show the public myself. So far, I have used my art skills in clubs and community services including in Art Club board, Journalism art editor and in church. I also have volunteered at Salvation Army, tutored younger age kids, and joined various clubs.

I can’t say I had the greatest years in high school with many misadventures but they have made me a bigger and stronger person by learning greater responsibility and independence. However, I can say that, if I am given the opportunity, I will make achievements by creating and spreading new ideas.