

EXAMPLE 1: ESSAY TARGETED TO A SPECIFIC CURRICULAR STRENGTH

I decided in high school to become a motion picture producer. Over the past four years I have been engaged in learning all I could about the entertainment field. Quickly realizing that the motion picture business is just that -a business-I chose to study business, concentrating in finance. However, most of my free electives have been devoted to film topics, including Film Exhibition and Distribution, Producer's Seminar, and Great Directors. I have also produced and directed four films while in school, including a campus cult favorite, Tom Thumb, which parodies Top Gun using grocery sackers instead of naval aviators. With the acting talent of several friends, equipment from SMU, and permission from Tom Thumb, Inc. (a regional chain of grocery stores) to film inside of one of their Dallas stores, the fifty minute story of Maverick and Iceman was completed over two weekends for only \$35. Another of my films, Commission Xhibit 885, is an animated, surrealistic look at Kennedy's assassination and its effects on the people and attitudes of the Sixties. This film was chose for The Dallas Show, a compilation of works by Dallas artists, and premiered at the Dallas Museum of Art.

As exciting as the premiere was, the pinnacle of my undergrad film experience was the semester I worked on Born on the Forth of July, the latest Oliver Stone movie. As the only student to work full-time on the film, I had the opportunity (between carrying call sheets to the set, shuttling actors to the airport, answering phones, grabbing lunch for the production office, and even appearing as a riot-cop in one of the scenes) to query some of Hollywood's elite about the path I should follow to become a producer. Their most frequent response was, "go to law school."

After investigating this advice, working for a law firm and various film studios, I realized they were correct. The entertainment industry is so complex-filled with unions, guilds, and contracts covering everything from foreign video distribution to domestic merchandising rights-that it requires exceptional individuals with highly specialized training (lawyers) to master these components. Therefore, it is this training I seek. UCLA's renowned entertainment law program is what attracted me to apply, and discovery of your externship program cemented UCLA as my first choice in law schools. With your help, I can attend UCLA and become a lawyer/producer with the insight and understanding to effectively juggle the legal, business, and creative aspects of the entertainment industry.