

I was born to be curious. I am a problem-solver, an introspective thinker, and at the core of it all, I yearn to become the best version of myself. And that, to me, is the meaning of education – the catalyst through which I can obtain the tools to begin the process of fine-tuning my mind. This is the conclusion at which I arrived after deciding to declare my mathematics major and realizing that mathematics, though fitting to me, is not enough. While I could be content to spend my days completing problem sets, and thereby developing that singular aspect of my mind more than I ever knew to be possible, I do not want to be just content. I want to be fulfilled. I want to know that I am the best version of myself. And I know with utmost certainty that my best self will not be born from choosing and focusing on one specific subject. Rather, it will be born from a multifaceted focus, one that contains multiple focuses and that approaches my mental betterment from multiple directions.

Although the last two and a half semesters at UM have been incredible for me – in regards to the infinite opportunities I have been graced with and the self-growth I have experienced – I have had an inkling lurking in the back of my mind. Something has been missing. I believe this “something” to be the absence of dedication on my part to the written language. Writing has always been one of my loves and joys in life. In my seventh grade English class, I wrote a short story about the Holocaust, and I can remember working on it for hours, getting lost in the emotions of the characters I created and the storyline I fashioned. I remember experiencing such a sense of pleasure from sewing words together to create sentences that felt smooth on the tongue, and that projected my plotline into the minds of those who read my story. Even today, I love the way that words harmonize and ideas come together to form a piece of art that has the

power to change the way that humans think and act. I love the challenge of manipulating an over-used topic to construct a piece of art unique from that which others, who have previously taken on the same topic, create. During my senior year of high school, in my philosophy course, I was gifted for the first time with the opportunity to create such uniqueness. My teacher gave me and my fellow classmates zero guidelines regarding the topic, or which of the works we had read in class, to use to write our many essays. While many of my classmates felt overwhelmed or confused, I found myself feeling free and, for the first time in a long time, excited to write an essay.

Remembering such feelings of inspiration and excitement, I have come to realize that I want, and need, to experience those feelings again in order to spark my education and reawaken my journey towards fulfillment. I yearn to delve once again into the world of words so to enhance my writing foundation and ultimately go beyond the world of the essay to explore the countless other genres of writing. It is my desire to refine my abilities to communicate with and relate to others through the platform of writing. My hypothesis is that if it is truly my goal to expand my horizons and to better my mind through education, there is no better way to do so than to incorporate the art of writing into my journey here at UM. The UM writing minor would enhance my college experience tenfold and is undoubtedly exactly what I need to fine-tune my mind and progress towards fulfillment.