

Describe a topic, idea, or concept you find so engaging that it makes you lose track of time. Why does it captivate you? What or who do you turn to when you want to learn more?

Total of 650 words (**Common app**)

“One in Seven Billion”

As our tough as nails orange Sahara Jeep Wrangler wheels rotate through these steep, unpaved roads, my family and I appear as a speck compared to this enormous island. From colossal mountain ranges to highland plateaus was just the beginning of the Casimiro's "Iceland Ring Road Tour". My bold brown eyes are glued to the scenery; it leaves me in a maze of my own thoughts. Snowy mountain tops, sharp edges of house-sized glaciers, to the lava-like boiling water and steam erupting from countless geysers. I had been so oblivious to mother nature's creations, even after 18 years of being on this planet. It took one summer family vacation to Iceland to even come close to recognizing it. Since being raised inside my microscopic bubble of Fanwood New Jersey, not once in my life have I been exposed to something so captivating.

This exposure suddenly infuses a lightbulb in my head, rising beneath the shadows. In a week we explored this astonishing island using route one, circling around the entire country. As scientists are daily, I was exposed to aspects of nature I had never witnessed before. Which has now led to my brain questioning the unknown. More than seventy percent of the ocean is undiscovered, isn't that absolutely mind-boggling? The new species down below are simply unimaginable. From an "Octoshark" to a whale-sized turtle, the possibilities of what species could exist are endless. All my new experiences far from home fostered my love and desire for the unexpected. Expecting the unexpected has turned into my mantra, keeping each day from feeling anywhere near normal. Experiencing the same things daily gets repetitive and ultimately, accustoms one to the loop of a plain and boring lifestyle. I have an urgency to try new things, making my personality more outgoing and adventurous. This outlook on life has encouraged me to step out of my comfort zone, pushing me to develop new hobbies and passions. This vacation away from our tiny town of Fanwood, was an unforgettable journey that I will never take for granted. I saw a whole other part of the world, so unlike everything I've ever known. Till this day I constantly let my mind wander and lose track of time thinking, *what else does mother nature have to offer?*

Just like Iceland, my new home on campus has many new opportunities in store. All of the student-led organizations, and internships each university offers are some of those can't-miss-opportunities. I am excited to be an active member of the student body and to put in work towards my future, the moment I step foot on campus. I'm taking a leap out of my comfort zone, taking pride and sharing my Peruvian heritage, establishing my campus as my new home. From engaging in student-run clubs, to applying for work-study jobs, and going to college game days. The point is, I truly want to be involved. Being part of this community is so important to

me; I want to look back knowing I made an impact in the society. Some of my biggest desires are to study abroad on foreign soil. Along with joining a business fraternity, where I can pursue my entrepreneurship career, with new friends who are as passionate about it as I am. Quite honestly, I'm just ready to enjoy myself learning and trying new things. Even if I am currently skeptical of certain things, they are worth a shot, there is no harm in simply trying. Who knows, I might just fall in love with the subject, but I would never know if I never gave it a chance. My curiosity will lead me to learning more and more as each day comes. I am ready to explore beyond the bubble I was raised in and make the best of my academic college experience.