

NYU Supplement: We would like to know more about your interest in NYU. We are particularly interested in knowing what motivated you to apply to NYU and more specifically, why you have applied or expressed interest in a particular campus, school, college, program, and/or area of study? If you have applied to more than one, please tell us why you are interested in each of the campuses, schools, colleges, or programs to which you have applied. You may be focused or undecided, or simply open to the options within NYU's global network; regardless, we want to understand - Why NYU? (400 words)

“How do they find enough dead animals for everyone in the world to eat?” The question had puzzled me for some time, but at the age of 4 when I asked my parents, they were speechless. They exchanged uncomfortable glances across the cooked salmon between us before giving me an explanation that resulted in me shoving my plate away and vowing to never touch meat again.

Growing up, environmental issues were always a concern of mine. I was the kid who would scold family members and classmates for being wasteful, spend my recesses picking up litter on the playground, and cry every time I saw trees being cut down. From 5th through 8th grade, the school that I attended refused to institute a recycling program, so twice a week, I would bring stacks of over 800 papers from my classmates to our own overflowing recycling bin. During 8th grade, as a year-long project, I raised money for World Wildlife Fund to combat species extinction. However, my knowledge of the planetary destruction that was occurring was limited; I only acted in this manner because I felt that it was morally right.

Throughout high school, I developed a deeper understanding of environmental issues through AP & IB environmental science classes. These courses opened my eyes to the impact that individuals have, and I was inspired to do more. I became an active member of our school's Students for Environmental Action club winning districts and placing 4th in state envirothon, setting up a school garden, and leading beach cleanups. Now, as president of this club, I take initiative on projects and share my enthusiasm with others. I have also conducted personal research for science fair on environmental topics of my interest, currently volunteer in an ecology laboratory, and spent the last summer performing invasive plant research while taking a class on environmental health and toxicology.

As an individual hoping to make a tangible difference in the world, I find value in spending my undergraduate years in New York City, as it is the ideal location for someone seeking opportunities proportionate to their ambitions yet wanting to create an immediate local impact. I hope that by attending NYU, I will be able to engage in initiatives such as the Billion Oyster Project, take part in the Environmental Studies Internship, and pursue a career in environmental law through NYU's environmental studies program.

-Jasleen K 2017