

Admission Essay

If I were to read this application as an admissions officer, my greatest concern about the individual in question would be a depth of character and experience that might not yet have developed in a person of my age.

Whenever I read a resume or application of young “fast track” professional, I question the one-dimensionality that all too frequently characterizes bright, ambitious but otherwise shallow achievers. Were I involved in the admissions process, I would make every effort to admit individuals who are highly motivated, and performance-oriented; that fact notwithstanding, however, I would also seek those individuals who possess the intangible yet compelling personal attributes that are distilled from a wealth of tangible unique experiences.

After an in-depth reading of this application, I form a mental image of a 24-year-old, bright, inquisitive challenge-seeker who possesses a natural bent for the appreciation of foreign cultures and a fascination with global issues.

At an age where none of the truly formidable crossroads of life has yet been met, might not this person expand her intellectual horizons in a more unrestricted manner, for example, by apprenticing as a wine taster in one of the great French wine chateaux?

Or studying art history and language at the Sorbonne? Or, even experimenting with hidden talents at the culinary schools of La Varenne or La Norte in Paris? Why isn't this applicant studying political science in an Eastern Bloc university, journeying by train across Russia, sailing up the Yellow River on a barge excursion or trekking through the Himalayas of Nepal?

For a motivated, resourceful individual, the scope of uniquely enriching cultural opportunities is unlimited: Archaeological digs in the Andes, rough water sailing from Australia, an internship on the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee, or set design for a theater on Broadway.

It is evident that the individual described herein possesses a surfeit of qualifications, talent and practical experience in the final analysis, however, the question is one of whether the person also possesses the diversity of lessons, both the everyday and the unusual, the exciting and the mundane, that ordinary life (in many not-so-ordinary places) has to offer.

Why do I believe that you will overrule the consideration expressed in this essay? The answer is the following: I think an individual who realizes the need for depth of character forged by unrestricted intellectual exploration is a long way along the road to acquiring that sought-after depth.

And I am enough of an optimist to believe that I can juggle business school and a concurrent diversity of experiences that will allow me to progress the rest of the way down that road.

