

Dear Professor Burke,

Hello! My name is Ashley Lynn Rettig but most people call me Ash. I am eighteen years old, born on March 13, 1994. I was born at Parma Hospital, in Parma, Ohio. I grew up in two different houses both located in Brook Park, Ohio which is a small suburb of Cleveland. I attended Midpark High School, in Middleburg Heights, Ohio. I have no siblings and grew up with only my mother and my grandparents. Throughout my entire childhood, I was a competitive dancer and cheerleader. I competed in many competitions, doing many solos and receiving many awards for not only dance but also music. I am currently studying Chemical Engineering and Business but I hope to go on to Law School after my undergraduate studies. I am a freshman at UC. I am also in the band here at the University. I play the piccolo in the marching band and the pep band. I also play the flute in concert band. Although it's very time consuming, my instruments are my biggest strength, my most helpful stress reliever and my strongest passion. I am also one of the most cliché people you will ever meet. I am always "armed" with inspirational quotes that I can use in any situation. I find that quotes are a good way to express feelings and stress. Other than that, I can't wait to start Cooping with the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences here at UC. I'm very into food and nutrition and I'm hoping to Co-op with the US Department of Agriculture next spring. (2014)

I feel that I am a good all-around writer but I'm definitely strongest in Creative Writing. In my free time I write a lot. I am currently working on a novel that is fiction. It definitely shows my creative side. A lot of my writing is often extremely dark though. I also enjoy writing and using inspiration from my personal experiences. I may be young but I've been through a lot of experiences that I would love to share with people. Lastly, I like to write about helping others, blessings and those small every day miracles that people overlook and take for granted. I think one of the biggest problems in today's society is the snobbiness of the upper class. My whole reason for this inspiration is a trip I had the pleasure of going on in the summer of 2009. My church traveled to New Orleans, Louisiana to participate in the National Youth Gathering held by the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America. While there, we got to help the communities rebuild from Hurricane Katrina. It was one of the most influential experiences in my entire life. It often influences my style of writing.

I guess my strengths would be music, writing, creativity and leadership qualities. I've held leadership spots in cheerleading and band. Since my freshmen year of high school I was a section leader in the band. I was also a cheerleading captain throughout my high school career. My weaknesses, I suppose are probably, presenting, communicating, and being optimistic. I'm usually only optimistic if I know the outcome of the situation and I know everything turns out well. I hope to be happy and find a job that fits me just right. One day I really hope to be a Defense Attorney or a Criminal Lawyer. I don't really fear anything, I think if you have a goal and there's something or someone you want to do or be then as long as you have a plan, you'll be fine. The biggest fear however, is fear itself.

As far as the course goes, it's really the only one that fit into my schedule and once a physical class could fit, I had already ordered the books. I am also not a fan of presenting in front of peers so I figured this would be the easiest option. Besides this class I just have my other college courses and I have access to the internet 24/7 unless I go on a trip with the band. I'm not really concerned about an online class because I can pretty much just do the work when I have time as long as I get it in on time. I took English Composition in the fall and withdrew because I couldn't stand presenting everything we did, so I'm hoping this course will fulfill the requirement without that. I don't mind presenting every once in a while. However I didn't understand why we presented papers.

Let's see home, well I love my grandma's home style cooking. No one cooks like grandma. One of my favorite days is when we bake cookies and candy for the holidays. We always devote a full 14 hour day to making sure they're all perfect. I also like having a "Girls Day" with my mom. Since I grew up with just my mom we have always been extremely close. Once every season, we do a day of shopping. The best tradition is going to eat at the Cheesecake Factory. I also love just being at home and being with the people that I love. I really only hate some of the memoirs that reside in my household and my hometown. Certain things I see just bring bad memories and that's really hard to be around. I think my home really taught me to be a strong person. A lot of things that would bother most people don't bother me and that's simply because I was bred to be strong. I used to think my hometown was like a jail, I couldn't get away. However, when I moved to Cincinnati which is about 400 miles away, I realized that I didn't need to get away because my hometown is an amazing place filled with amazing people who were just trying to help me become what I'm supposed to become. My community's biggest issues have always been money related. Usually the problem centers on school levies because so many older people live in the town. Recently though, the problem has started to digress.

Sincerely,

Ashley Lynn Rettig

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