

Emily J. Rodriguez

Summer 2019 Personal Statement

Often, when I hear the question addressing who I am or what I aspire to be, or even what my story and history is, I don't know what to say. I usually reply with a short and basic, "Well, my name is Emily Rodriguez, I am a student, and my family came from Mexico then traveled to the United States." I have never really known how to respond to a question like that or understood what the person asking wanted to hear from me. Once I realized what it was that I was passionate about, the answer to that question started to become clearer. It was more than just my name and where my family was from. It was even more than just being a student and replying with how I intend to go to a university and graduate after four years. I realized that one, my original answer is incredibly cliché and shows nothing about who I *really* am and two, those plans were not that simple to accomplish. I thought about what my interests were and my passions that made me who I was and thought about what it was that I wanted to study and take on as a career in the real-world.

I recalled my love for films and how they fascinated me and it motivated me to begin to create my own videos. Knowing almost nothing about films but that one needed a camera, transitions, and audio, I created short 30 seconds to one minute videos using the iMovie app on my phone. I took a few hours playing with the features on the app,

figuring out exactly how it worked, and overall found enjoyment in the process. I began recording videos of everything around me from the flower pots and the view of the blue sky in my backyard to even just candid moments amongst family and friends. I used all these recordings as footage for my videos and spent the summer, for the most part, on iMovie editing until I was satisfied with my work. It was in that moment, completing my first few second edits, that I realized this is something that I really loved doing and decided in that I wanted to actively pursue this. Looking back at those videos, they were not the most aesthetically pleasing but, it was mine and the feeling I got when creating them was unmatched. I had have never felt this before, this sense of accomplishment and joy. Pursuing film is something that I am passionate about. Once my mind is set I am taken over by an indefatigable drive to create and, cannot help but be joyous throughout the production process as I see my creation take shape. Creating these short films have proven to me that I am someone that is motivated, hard working, and dedicated.

I have grown into a young woman that is passionate and speaks her mind because of my family that has given me their everlasting support. When my family arrived to the United States, they worked their hardest to provide me with what they could. They traveled to a country in which they new little to nothing about and built their lives from the bottom up. I owe them my thanks for helping me become the person that I am. Their motivation is what pushes me to want to create films that will empower women, people of color, and all minorities to rise and reach their full potential. Now, thinking of my

response to the question regarding who I am, I have a clear response. While it is important to state that yes, I am a student, a daughter, and a person of color, these labels, however, do *not* define me. Who I am is an aspiring filmmaker, a young impassioned woman, and a proud member of the Latinx community. I am determined to make my hopes and dreams of becoming a successful filmmaker, role model to the youth that have stories and backgrounds similar to mine, and a person that makes a visible change in the society we live in. I will continue working till these goals become my reality.