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Sweetland Center for Writing
1310 North Quad, 105 S. State Street
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Dear Sweetland Faculty Member,

At this moment—the beginning of my junior year—I find myself in a mid-college crisis. Becoming an upper classman made me see the future as closer than ever before, and being a Screen Arts and Cultures major with hopes of writing for television makes me desperately question how on earth I will find stability. One of the few things I know to be stable about my future, however, is that I will always involve writing in my life. Writing was there for me as a loner preteen, an explorative high school student, and an unsure young adult. Wherever I go, I'm certain writing will follow. I'm applying to the Sweetland Minor in Writing because it's a sure investment in unpredictable life.

As for my qualifications for the minor, my academic and extracurricular experiences shaped me well to partake in this experience. My recognized writing experience began in high school as a young writer for the Kalamazoo Gazette and as a recipient of the Scholastic Arts and Writing National Gold medal for dramatic script writing. In college, I followed my passion for dramatic script writing by taking many classes in play and screenplay writing and film and theater analysis. These classes gave me the skills to compose a Hopwood Award-winning play and have two productions of my work. In my field of study, we are constantly analyzing material and forming clear arguments to demonstrate our knowledge of the artistic forms. My background in journalistic, creative, and analytic writing will give me a strong base upon which I can build my experience in the minor.

Strengthening these writing skills will be an excellent boost for my academic goals. In my undergrad experience, this minor will contribute to better analysis, succinctness, and structure in papers or creative projects. In my post-grad years, this minor will give me marketable skills of argumentation and organization that any grad school (specifically an MFA in writing) or writing fellowships will appreciate upon application. Most important to me is the positive affect the minor will have on my post-grad career. Whatever path I take in life, a mastery of writing is extremely marketable to any employer, especially in the television industry, which is centered upon verbal communication of ideas. Whether I'm working my dream job as a television writer or working PR for a production company or television network, the ability to express ideas in an eloquent, structured, clear, and moving manner will be greatly beneficial.

In order to gain this marketable edge, I desire to focus studies within the minor that would allow me to develop an interesting and clear voice I can sell to post-grad

programs or employers. I am specifically interested in the study of essay writing, which will help build both a professional and personal voice while engaging a determined audience. Even more intriguing is the study of new media offered by the minor. In a society in which the publication and digestion of writing is constantly changing, I would love to give myself the competitive edge of knowing how to manipulate the digital age to market my ideas. For this reason, I am highly interested in using the Sweetland ePortfolio as a way of producing a marketable sample of myself as an innovative communicator in the modern world.

The skills acquired by the minor will surely contribute to a better education and career no matter how my plans evolve. I am certain that my passion, experience, and dedication to the craft of writing make me an excellent candidate. If selected, I ecstatically anticipate participating in this investment.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jacob Levi Stroud