



“Destinations” Interview Questions



Name: Albert Labaria

Destination: University of Alabama

Career goal: Civil Engineer or Lawyer

What is your favorite subject/class & why? AP Environmental Science is my favorite subject and class. Before I entered the class, I did not know much about the environment, except that it was a good thing to recycle. I did not even know why it was good to recycle, I just knew that it was something you should do. Upon taking the class, I have learned so much about planet earth, why it is important to keep our environment healthy, the reasons behind recycling, and why we should.

Who is your favorite teacher & why? My favorite teacher is my Spanish teacher, Mrs. Skujins. She is my favorite teacher because she is an understanding person who I easily get along with, and is definitely one of the best Spanish teachers at this school. She makes her classroom a fun and hard-working environment in which I enjoy being a part.

What is your favorite high school memory? My favorite high school memory was last year's Cat Fight victory against Modesto High School. We were down 19-0 at halftime, but my fellow Jaguars stayed strong and came back against our rivals, winning the football game 22-19. It was definitely a memorable game. All the students were getting into it, and the school spirit that night was awesome.

Who/what is your biggest influence & why? My biggest influence is my good friend, Abraham Apellanes. I have learned a lot from him. He always encourages me to follow my dreams, and do whatever I feel would be the best decision for myself. He has taught me that there really are no regrets in life, because every moment of our past is an experience and not a regret.

What is the most important lesson you learned? The most important lesson I have learned in high school is how to study. Going into high school, and even throughout high school, I really did not know exactly what to do when you are supposed to be studying. It was not until during my junior year where I finally discovered a studying method that works for me.

What advice do you have for incoming freshmen? Academically: Study. Even when you think you know the material, just study. Studying is always good practice for the future. Socially: Be yourself. There will always be a group of friends for you out there no matter where you are in the world.

Why did you select your destination? I selected the University of Alabama because I wanted to experience the southern culture. I wanted to put myself into a totally different environment than California. I believe that this is the best way for me to grow as an individual, and become more understanding of different cultures. Also, academically, the University of Alabama offers a pre-law track for my major (civil engineering). So as I attend university, I will be a pre-law student, as well as a civil engineer major. My plan is to earn my bachelor's degree in civil engineering, and then earn my law degree right after.

How did Modesto City Schools prepare you for your future? Modesto City Schools prepared me for my future with the faculty the district possesses. The teachers at my school are all top notch teachers that I have learned many lessons from--academically and socially. They have prepared me for the future by sharing their wisdom of the subject they teach, and valuable life lessons as well.

In what extracurricular activities did you participate (clubs/music/chorus/athletics)? I played varsity soccer for four years. During my freshman year I wrestled, and my junior year I ran track. Also in junior year I started a club, Cube Club. I have also been a part of our Spirit Club as well for two years.

What is your favorite quote or saying? "Roll Tide"