



“Destinations” Interview Questions



Name: Stephanie Seitzer

Destination: UCLA

Career goal: High School English Teacher

What is your favorite subject/class & why? I loved my English Literature class this year because I was able to engage in thoughtful conversation and analysis with my friends and teacher. I was able to experience different viewpoints that made me recognize the need for communication and understanding in society, as well as methods authors use to communicate a powerful message to a wide audience.

Who is your favorite teacher & why? Over my four years at Johansen, I have developed a close relationship with my band director, Brad Hart. Because of the many extracurricular activities I have under his direction, I have been able to see the deep care he has for his students and passion he has for his subject. I could name many occasions when I've been able to talk to him about serious subjects in an easier way than in talking to others.

What is your favorite high school memory? My favorite memory would be when a huge group of my friends went to Denny's after winter formal sophomore year. We were delirious with exhaustion and falling asleep in our pancakes, and had a wonderful time hanging out and sharing memories from the night.

Who/what is your biggest influence & why? Often times I am influenced by what my friends think (I know, peer pressure is bad!), because obviously as friends, I respect their opinions and values, and they offer great advice. When I'm still stuck after appealing to them, I have to go with my gut. But I keep in mind what my dad says, "Remember who you are and what you stand for; you're a Seitzer; be proud of it."

What is the most important lesson you learned? You don't have to be good at everything. Do what makes you happy and you'll end up finding something you're amazing at. I was never a star athlete like my sister, and when I tried to be I was miserable. I found my own niche in school and never regret my pathway here.

What advice do you have for incoming freshmen? Start thinking about what matters to you in a college, whether it's a certain major, location, or program, anything that could influence your years there. Then, visit the school! No amount of online articles and stat reports can compare to the feeling you get when you're at the school. You want to spend the next four years somewhere you'll be happy, even if that means giving up a few logical amenities at a different school.

Why did you select your destination? In UCLA I found a balance of educational resources and grandeur that will prepare me in the long run for a successful future, while giving me a college experience full of spirited fun, surrounded by students just as motivated as I, who will inspire me to new heights.

How did Modesto City Schools prepare you for your future? MCS hosts an arsenal of teachers in the AP program that are overwhelmingly intelligent, helpful, and creative. They demonstrate a deep understanding of the material they teach and apply it outside the classroom. They have taken a population of lower socio-economic students and made us competitive at top universities.

In what extracurricular activities did you participate

(clubs/music/chorus/athletics)? I am very active in the instrumental music department as band council president, drum major of the marching band, and a leading member in concert band, jazz band, orchestra, drumline, and color guard. I also spend my summers at a music camp in Turlock, and my winters as part of the SCMEA (Stanislaus County Music Educators Association) Honor Band.

What is your favorite quote or saying? “Be who you are and say what you feel because those who mind don't matter and those who matter don't mind.” -- *Dr. Seuss*