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Prompt: Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.

Colleges I'm Considering:

- Colorado College
- Duke University
- Regis University
- University of Denver

What is magic? Simply put, magic is the gift of a new and impossible moment. And yes, magic is real. It isn't the traditional form of wand-casting or potion-brewing popular in fiction novels; nor is it a puzzle to test your logic, or a cheesy birthday party trick that embarrasses your kid. Real magic occurs without warning or hesitation in a single moment when your mind opens to possibilities.

I consider myself to be a magician. It's taken me years of study, practice, and refinement. From reading magic books detailing complex sleight-of-hand to analyzing human behavior, I am consumed by magic. I wake up thinking magic, I fall asleep thinking magic. I can't even go shopping without looking at items and thinking "How can I make this ordinary object do something extraordinary?" Magic gradually crept into my life and has become integral to who I am. It drives me and pushes my limits to expand my mind and look at the world in new perspectives.

When I was an aspiring magician, I was so excited when I got the opportunity to do my first really big show in front of a paying audience of 50+ people. I was vibrating from nerves, but I walked on stage ready to amaze and mystify. However, my high hopes soon vanished as nearly every catastrophe imaginable happened. My cards had vanished from their box; my fly was down; I spilled water on a volunteer; broke a glass all over the stage; dropped a iPhone; lost a valuable wedding ring; and tripped over the microphone stand cartwheeling off stage left. Naturally, the client who'd hired me requested a full refund, which I was happy to oblige. I had failed quite miserably. I was done with magic.

So I stored away my props and manuscripts in the deepest darkest part underneath my bed. But the tantalizing allure of the shiny coins and glossy cards sucked me back into their world. My desire to bring a little bit of wonder to the world compelled me to start practicing my craft again with determination. I analyzed the show, and took note of every mistake and what could've been done to prevent it. Seven years later, never once has one of these unfortunate bloopers reared its ugly head.

Early in my career, I would try to simulate my idols in performance. But I noticed the audience would subconsciously pick up on my inauthenticity. In the back of their minds, because I pretended to be someone else, the viewers would create a barrier between themselves and me. Naturally, my initial performances were very challenging because magic relies on the performer's connection with the audience. Only when I let go of who I should be and focused on who I am was I able to perform more genuinely, and truly connect with my audiences.

In a way, magic is about enlarging certain characteristics of the universe while ignoring others. And the same can be said for magicians. When I perform, I am an enlarged version of myself. Certain qualities are emphasized while others are pushed to the side temporarily. When on stage, I don't become a different person, I become a bigger person. One who seeks to amaze and inspire.

In this day and age, our western culture is in high demand for magic, even if we aren't aware of it. We seek to explain the universe and its workings. Nothing is a mystery. Information is incessantly consumed, depriving us of one of our most fundamental feelings: wonder.

People NEED mystery in their lives. Because the explanation to every question is a google search away, we're never really surprised by anything. Nothing really catches us off guard. My mission in magic is to bring some mystery back into people's lives and remind them that it is okay not to know everything, but to sit back and appreciate new and impossible moments.