Silas Almgren
Year 12
Filer High School
Idaho

What Drives Me

Motivation is a fickle thing in life. It can change and morph with one's passions and current aims in life. My drive is certainly no exception. If I were asked this question as a middle schooler, I would have responded that my motivations were rooted in money or social standing. In my first years of high school, I would've stated that I was driven by an overwhelming sense that I *must* be successful. However, as I near the end of high school and teeter on the edge of the adult world, I feel as though these superficial motives are unsustainable. In turn, I have been more recently been driven by a deeper motivation: a thirst for knowledge and understanding of the world.

Though I pursue the quenching of this thirst through many facets, the most prevalent way I do so is through my passion for computer science. The modern world is driven by computers and, in turn, software. Despite the pervasiveness of computers in our modern lives, the knowledge of how a great deal of this technology works is vague or even inaccurate to most. The complexity of computer science is often very effective in warding people off from exploring its details and inner workings. However, with my need to understand the world around me, this factor draws me to this field. Over the past couple of years, I have found myself delving into studying computer science. With a drive to understand the world around me, this has been a phenomenal outlet. Not only has computer science helped me understand the technologies that

consume my day-to-day life, but it has taught me how to think. Between taking in-school electives such as AP Computer Science to doing my own studies through reading coding documentation, I have sought to gain as much information as possible in this field. I've even reached the point that I'm prepared to spend four years in university to continue exploring this expansive learning.

Accompanying this burning drive to use computer science as a means to understand the world is a drive to create. The more I have explored this field the more one thing has become explicitly clear, the bulk of information is useless without application. In turn, I have found myself creating websites, games, mobile applications, and working with a plethora of other technologies. Though these are generally simple and not super utilitarian, they have helped lay the foundation of skills for what I can do in the future. I feel as though everyone has an intrinsic need to have an impact on the world. Whether this is through literature, music, software or anything in between, humans have a longing to create things that have an influence on others' lives. I wish to do this through code. This may come through creating websites, games, or even working with other technologies that may not even exist yet. Whatever this may be, it will start with what drives me: the pursuit of knowledge.