

~~Since I was very young my inexhaustible energy and tapping feet suggested that I was destined to be a dancer. It just so happens that at a dance concert for a company I am particularly fond of, I experienced something magnificent that I knew would greatly contribute to my love for the arts.~~

I had gone to the concert to see the Lehrer Dance Company, ~~one of my favorite dance companies. How could I know little did I know there was a~~ ~~was about to be completely captivated by the~~ quartet scheduled to play between dance pieces. ~~?~~ After the first piece I looked up out of the audience, ~~and on the~~ On stage sat a young man playing a black and white Roland accordion. ~~I was smitten. Later that evening~~ As soon as I got home, I scoured EBay for a lightly used accordion, ~~and luckily I was desperate to learn all the about the instrument and how to play it. I was amazed when my former piano teacher had acquired the e-mail address of the accordion player, from my former piano teacher. I was desperate to learn all the about the instrument and how to play it.~~ Fortunately the man did not live far and was able to fit me in for lessons. Unfortunately the accordion I had won on EBay was badly worn and unplayable. Eventually I was able to purchase a fully functioning accordion and I took off from there.

My teacher, Moshe, was a Russian immigrant living in a small apartment, ~~not far from me.~~ His teaching was almost as inspiring as the story of how he came to live in America. I thoroughly enjoyed every lesson (and still do!). ~~and I learned that there was discovered~~ another art in the world that I was very passionate about. ~~Not only am I passionate about playing accordion! It is not just the music, but the~~ The personal effort I put into making it happen makes playing ~~it~~ that much more satisfying. ~~To me it's not just another instrument that you play for a month and move on. It's the accordion is~~ an antique art that has been passed from generation to generation that I had the fortune to learn and be challenged by.

~~I learned from my thirteen~~ Thirteen years of intensive ballet and modern dance training that ~~taught me that~~ dedication is key to success in any field. ~~Charles Schwab once said "A man can succeed at almost anything for which he has unlimited enthusiasm."~~ Had I not been overly enthusiastic about learning the accordion I would have never had the opportunity to study it. The same principle transfers into my schoolwork as well. ~~When I first started high school I could have been a better student, but as my excitement about my classes increased so did my dedication to my studies. Without dedication and extensive enthusiasm I wouldn't be the student, musician, or dancer that I am today.~~

Comment [J1]: My most frequent advice to students is to eliminate their introductory paragraph and jump in with the story they are usually telling by the second paragraph. Guess what! Yes, that's my advice to you as well!

Comment [J2]: Shorter, active sentences help your audience keep moving through the piece.

Comment [J3]: Felt like a bridge was missing between these ideas. This is an example.

Comment [J4]: Somehow, your writing suggests more 'energy' and urgency. A slightly different phrase can reinforce that.

Comment [J5]: Shorter, active sentences

Comment [J6]: The flow and order seems a little out of sequence, so I moved your sentences a bit

Comment [J7]: You already said that above.

Comment [J8]: This sounds like you are about to tell a story of how he came to America, but you don't. If it isn't relevant, simplify this to his inspirational teaching. If the story fits, and since you mention it, you should tell a bit more.

Comment [J9]: Here again it sounds like you might be making a reference to Moshe's story. If so, this would be a nice link.

Comment [J10]: Admissions officers want to know what you think, not so much what Charles Schwab thought. I almost always advise against quotes and encourage more personal thoughts be shared.

Comment [J11]: Consider an alternate point of view here. You talk about enthusiasm increasing your performance, and that without it, you don't perform as well as you'd like. The negative way to interpret that, and the question that first popped to my mind is..."college has a lot of parts to it that aren't going to drive the same level of passion and enthusiasm. I wonder how well this student will handle that part of college...and life". You don't want to leave an impression that you only work hard and perform well in the 'good' stuff.