* **What?**
	+ The passion that I wish to reflect on is traveling/learning about other cultures. Ever since I was a little girl, I have loved learning about other countries and used to constantly read the *Eyewitness Books* and would try to learn everything I could about places. My father also influenced my passion because with his job he traveled constantly and would bring me and my siblings souvenirs and pictures back from places he visited and I was amazed by it all. In high school, I learned that there was an opportunity to travel abroad with my Spanish Club the summer after my sophomore year to Costa Rica and the trip would combine service work with tourist activities and so I asked my parents and that was when I realized that I would do everything I could to be able to continue with my passion. Once abroad and in Costa Rica, I loved every minute of it and did not want to come back to the states but sadly my parents would not let me stay. Once again during my senior year I learned that the club would be taking a trip to Ecuador and it would be a similar trip and I was fortunate enough that my parents were able to send me on the trip after I graduated high school. In college with my International Affairs major I hope to continue to learn about other countries and be able to visit them. Thus, traveling and learning about other cultures is my passion.
* **So What?**
	+ The passion is significant because I believe that it is important for everyone to understand more about other cultures are different from our own and be able to expand our horizons and be able to communicate with others. Traveling captivates my interest because I love learning about other places and one of my favorite quotes explains that “the world is a book and those who do not travel read only one page” which I believe is very true. Learning about other cultures captivates my interest because I enjoy all aspects of other cultures whether it is the food or music or art it is all fascinating and having the opportunity to learn about it and hopefully experience it in person one day is what truly makes traveling one of my passions.
* **Now What?**
	+ I would love to continue to learn more about different countries and with my major I hope to be able to learn different aspects about countries such as politics and the way the governments work in each. Also, I am minoring in Spanish and I hope to one day become fluent so I can talk to people from Hispanic countries and fully understand them and be able to learn about their past as well as their countries’ past. I can connect and engage my passion by learning about traveling and teaching others about it as well as talking about my personal travel experiences and be able to show people what the rest of the world is like. I applied to the Amazon study trip with the honors program and am hoping to be able to travel to the Amazon over Spring Break with the class. Also, through UC and UC International I hope to study abroad for a semester and be able to experience a country and learn in a university there.