

My name is [REDACTED]. I am 16 years old and I have been interested in computers since I can remember. I can still remember booting Doom 2 in DOS when I was around 4 or 5. Prior to becoming more interested in computers, I wanted to be a doctor or a lawyer (from age of about 9 to my freshman year of high school). However, I eventually started to play Halo (a popular video game). I was then introduced to a site called halo.bungie.org a.k.a.: HBO. This site helped me learn the world of "modding" (the changing of the games source). Subsequently, I joined www.halomods.com. After joining halomods I wanted to take my modding to a new level, so I tried editing the game's bitmap images and creating my own style for vehicles. I was eventually able to edit the maps and insert my own designs and even edit some of the models.

Later, I became quite good with Photoshop, and used it often. I was interested in animation, so one day I decided to try to make a cartoon. After a few hours of working in PowerPoint, I was able to get something going. A few hours later, I had made a cartoon around 7 seconds long. At about the same time I was introduced to Flash. I learned the tools of the program, but I was not very good at the animation part.

Once I started high school (sophomore year I believe), I became very interested in graphic design. I am interested in attending Full Sail University, which is a digital media, film and video production, game design, and computer animation Institute. I was very interested in modding around that time and I would often lose track of time making a video game into my own creation.

I have always been quite interested in video gaming. This led me to want to become a game designer. I wanted to pursue this endeavor instead of graphic design mostly because I believed that I didn't have the artistic skill to continue that dream. During my sophomore year, I was attending Clear Lake High School in Houston, Texas. I founded a high school club of which I was the president. The club was appropriately named the Gamers Club. It was rather successful and was the most fun I had ever had at school.

During the same year, I took a digital graphics class. It led me to discover what more I could do with Photoshop's features. During this class, we used Macromedia Studio, Photoshop, and Adobe Illustrator. Since I owned these software products at home, I would assist the teacher during class. After the school year was over I became intensely interested in Adobe Photoshop. I would read tutorials, find Internet resources, and make random graphics.

I moved into the North Pittsburgh area during the summer months. Since I didn't know anyone, it allowed me to spend time with Adobe Photoshop and Macromedia Flash. I started school at Mars Area High School and met Mr. Case (an awesome teacher by the way). He suggested that I attend this program at Duquesne University. Basically I am just a young adult who loves computers and have become fairly skilled in the art of using a computer. However, I have a voracious appetite for learning new things on the computer. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]