Education is not just a significant part of my life; it is my life and my deepest passion. Hence, the American level of academics is one of the key reasons why I live, study, and work in the U.S. today.

I was born in a large city of Volgograd, Russia, 19 years ago. I graduated from one of the best high schools my home city had to offer, with honors. I had been accepted by one of the best Russians schools, Moscow State University, to major in chemistry. But it did so happen that, shortly after I enrolled in MSU, my family immigrated to the United States. I had to decide if I was going to immigrate with them. This was a difficult decision meant giving up the opportunity that I had worked so hard to create for myself and entering an educational system that would present an additional challenge due to the language differences that I would have to overcome. Yet I made that decision because I strongly believe that by studying in the USA, I can work to become a better scholar and scientist. Here, I can reach my maximum potential.

Right now my major is general sciences, but Bergen Community College is the first step towards my PhD in chemistry. I really believe getting a valuable and interesting education should be one of the biggest achievements one can accomplish in his life time, and I am strongly set on accomplishing mine. Education is helping me find my niche in this world, my soul mates, and independence.

First, education has helped me find my own path in this life. Spending my days in high school, I oftentimes questioned myself trying to understand where the road to my future would lead. The more different classes I have taken, the broader and clearer I see it lay out before me. I successfully completed twenty-six different subject classes. As a result, I was able to recognize no only my interest in mathematics and sciences, but specifically my profound keenness for Organic Chemistry.
Second, education not only has helped me find my niche in this world, but my love of education has helped me to find new friends, including teachers and professors who inspire and challenge me. By pursuing classes that interest me, I am able to find people with similar passions and desires. We like to challenge each other and as a result grow and better ourselves. While other discuss sports or entertainment, my friends and I gather and discuss topics that are interesting and challenging, such as integrals, conjugated π-orbitals, or the similarities between Germanic and Slavic languages.

I have found professors and academics who highly value my efforts and offer internship or collaborative work. Through a recent internship with my microbiology professor, I realized how fascinating lab work can be. We finished a project in July and submitted our paper to the Journal of Industrial Microbiology and Biotechnology and are currently waiting for our research to be published. Also this semester, I was lucky enough to take Organic Chemistry II as individual honors studies. This class is a one-on-one lecture or laboratory practice with a professor who got this PhD. in organic chemistry. Only when I started studying this subject on a deep level, did I see that Organic Chemistry is actually art that is described using the laws of mathematics.

Furthermore, I appreciate education because it gives me the freedom to form my own points of view independently and to see things for what they are, not for what someone else might assume. I have begun to understand that a thought stated by somebody is not the ultimate truth. Any thought might be criticized by another system and it is precisely this principle that is the guarantee of progress.