

Hi. My name is Jonathan Angulo, a current senior majoring in Communication with minors in Economics and Political Science. I'd like to tell you a story; a story about my college decision making process.

Originally from Gilroy, California, a short forty minutes away from campus, my high school self was stuck deciding between which of the universities I had been accepted to would I be attending that upcoming fall, none of which, were Santa Clara University. At the time, I never considered Santa Clara as a realistic option. In fact, the only reason I applied was because my parents forced me to. They were devastated at the thought of me moving across the country for college; they didn't want to lose their baby.

Though, I must admit, I didn't know much about the university, I was blinded by the idea that I would never be caught going to a school so close to home. In that moment, I wanted the liberty of living on my own so that I could have, what I thought was, the full college experience. When the month of April rolled around and with the decision deadline quickly approaching, I had made my decision. I was to attend a university in Southern California; not the other side of the country, to my parents relief, but far enough where I thought I could grow as an individual.

A few weeks earlier, we had received a letter in the mail advertising Santa Clara's Preview Day. Though I was sure I had tossed it in the trash, my mom, sure enough, pulled it out of a drawer and begged me to at least give it a chance. Though I was hesitant, I figured a visit to the university would be harmless, knowing that I had already made my decision. Little did I know, that visit would turn out to be one of the most influential days of my life.

Upon arriving to Santa Clara, my mom was eager to walk around campus and join any open sessions we could. While walking down the mission path we were greeted by one of the Student Ambassadors; we had no idea where to register but she was nice enough to walk us there. During that walk, we spoke about her college experience thus far, including: her resources as a first generation college student, the community she had built with her residence hall, and the benefits of living close to home -- each point deeply resonated with me as a first generation college student myself struggling with the idea of going to school forty minutes away from home. Though it was simply a short five minute conversation, that student ambassador managed to get me my past my stubborn view of Santa Clara and encouraged me to truly think about what I was going to experience that day.

Throughout the course of the day, I was exposed to an extremely welcoming community. I met with professors that genuinely cared about their students, with students that saw Santa Clara as much more than just a school; each of them expressing their genuine happiness of being at Santa Clara University. The time I spent on campus that day was a pivotal moment in my decision making process. As I drove away, I knew exactly where I wanted to spend the next four years of my life.

I hope you consider taking the time to visit our university on Preview Day, an opportunity in which I had to be dragged to by my parents four years ago. In some ways, it feels like a lifetime ago, in others, it seems like just yesterday that I was stuck making one of the toughest, yet greatest, decisions of my life.