

Eric Lachs
Undergraduate Admission Application
Personal Statement 1

As any individual, I have always tried to appreciate culture. I have attempted reading bestsellers, listening to classical music, and examining art. It was not until a few years ago when I recognized my passion for cinema. I have since watched all of the classics, but none so closely as American Beauty.

A provocative tale of twentieth century suburbia, American Beauty is a timeless film which depicts the soullessness of conformity. Both visually stunning and superbly written, it follows the mesmerizing tale of a seemingly normal family through their individual tribulations and realizations. It is the story of Lester Burnham and his eventual cognizance of the insignificance of his life. Through self-evaluation, he realizes the despondency of his personal relationships and deepest thoughts. The catharsis comes when the characters realize the naivety of knowing the price of everything and the value of nothing.

Among the virtues embraced by American Beauty are optimism, self actualization, and tolerance. The tagline "Look Closer" invites the viewer to attempt to look past the familiar exterior of the stereotypical family and recognize the consequences of materialism and complacency. More than anything else American Beauty has taught me that it's hard to stay mad when there's so much beauty in the world.