In life, and in the University Honors Program at the University of Cincinnati, the word *‘passion’* comes up in conversation quite frequently. There is always one advisor or another asking the class or student in question, “It’s good that you like doing these things, but what is your passion?” The importance of having a passion, and being able to distinguish it from other activities that one simply enjoys doing and puts effort into is more influential that we can really imagine.

What?

 My passions in life are learning, and using my expanded knowledge to better understand and help people. From the time I was a child, I loved to learn new things. I was always excited to go to school and ask new questions and get new answers. Now, being in college, I will admit that I am significantly less excited to get up for class, but the same passion for hearing something that I have not heard before still remains. I love hearing someone delve deeper into a subject that I already have knowledge on and bringing up a point that I never would have come to on my own. One of my favorite feelings in life is that “aha!” moment that one experiences when they’re reading a book or listening to someone else speak that really just puts things into perspective, or completely turns something that a person may have thought to be true upside down.

So what?

 Just saying that I have a passion for learning and broadening my mental horizons doesn’t mean much without some elaboration. I think the moment that I really discovered how much I liked learning, about other people and cultures specifically, was in a class about World History when I was a sophomore. Despite not going very far in depth with all of the cultures that were part of the overall historical theme that the class was studying, I was drawn to the idea that there was so much about the world and its people that I do not know. I found myself researching the events, people, and concepts that I wanted to learn more about. Through my experiences researching and asking questions, I found that my love for history and studying people, and all of the learning that those subjects bring to the table was really cemented.

Now what?

 Because my passions are learning and expanding my knowledge, the question of what I want to learn about my passion isn’t so applicable as what I want to do with my passion. My goals for connecting and engaging with my passion are centered around applying my desire to learn everyday and in everything that I do. Each time I have an experience to learn something new, no matter how insignificant the detail may seem, I try to get the most out of it. Even just talking to a person can be an opportunity to learn, and keeping an open mind is crucial. It is because of these aspects of my passion that I feel that Anthropology is a great major to help me progress and advance with my passions. The whole concept of Anthropology in and of itself is learning about people over time, and humans, with all of their unique attributes and actions, provide the perfect learning opportunities.