

Ahmad Hamida's  
Dream Career  
(can you guess??)



**Essay:**

The first pimple I ever got was literally INSIDE my nose. That was my first (and albeit very abrupt) introduction to acne. I really started to get bad acne at the beginning of my sophomore year of high school. From then on, my acne has been the largest insecurity I've ever faced. Especially since my friends always expressed their jealousy on how clear my skin was when they were starting to break out in middle school. Since no one else in my family really broke out, it came like a huge tidal wave like the rest of the sophomore slump and completely wrecked my confidence. To get my skin back to how it did, I bought countless products, spending hundreds of dollars in the process. Important to mention that none of the aforementioned products worked and my face did in fact look like it came straight from an Italian nonna's pizza oven. This forced me to learn how skincare formulas are created, why people (especially teens) get acne, and how to effectively treat it so I could find products that worked for me. In the process, I fell in love with learning about how formulations work and how to utilize the native flora around you to heal your skin by extracting them and including them in products. This newly-found hobby is what led me to want to be a cosmetic chemist.