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WHY I DECIDED TO BECOME AN ELECTRICAL ENGINEER

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to

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by

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First I should present my definition of an electrical engineer. An electrical engineer is one who studies electrical phenomena for the purpose of applying this knowledge to practical use.

Electrical engineering is the field in which I believe I am best qualified to enter. One of the primary requirements for success in any field is interest in the work. Electricity has always been one of my interests. The repairing of electric motors, clocks, and other appliances is one of my leisure interests.

In school I have taken an interest in the sciences. Subjects such as chemistry, physics, and mathematics, which are prerequisite to an engineering education, are very interesting to me.

With interest one must have ability to do the work in order to succeed. If grades are an indication of ability, I can say that I am capable of studying electrical engineering.

One reason why I have chosen this field is that there are great opportunities in electrical engineering for research work. Electrical engineering is a comparatively new field in which there remain many things yet unknown.

One question I considered in selecting my vocation is 'Will I be doing something that will benefit society?' This consideration is particularly important when we see the economic system not functioning properly and a trend away from democracy in many parts of the world. Some people have even suggested that science should take a vacation while people learn how to use to the best economic advantage the contributions of science to industry. I do not agree with this tenet. Technical science should be advanced as much as possible and the scientific method should be applied to economics and sociology.

Economic problems are very important at this time. I have considered studying political science or economics. After considering the matter I have decided I would make a better engineer than a politician. Also I don't believe that an industry like the electric power industry can be forced to operate for the best benefit of the people by various political laws and regulations. The management of an industry must be interested in supplying efficient service to the public if the business is to be run for the benefit of the public. In electrical industries managers are more likely to follow the advice of engineers than of politicians. I believe that I can be of more use in this world as an electrical engineer than as a politician.

I realize that the technical work of electrical engineering is by far the most important part of the work. The products of electrical engineering are of great benefit to society. The standards of living of the American people have been raised by the development of electricity. These benefits have been very unevenly distributed between the unemployed and the millionaires of this country. I believe that electrical engineers should take the responsibility of studying the economic aspects of their work besides the technical work.

I have some idealistic ideas about the economic principles upon which the electrical industries should be operated which I shall keep in storage until I gain a position of influence, if ever. Probably these principles will not be feasible, anyway, until the American public develops the ability to elect better government officials. So my immediate task is to diligently study to become an electrical engineer.

I have decided to become one of those variations of the homo sapiens called electrical engineers, because I like it, because there are great opportunities in the field, because I think I have sufficient ability, and because I think I will best be able to contribute to the progress of society by becoming an electrical engineer.