



SOPHOMORE YEAR OF HIGH SCHOOL

WINNER

## WHY SELENE LOVES ARIZONA

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On several occasions, I have met people that have also been born and raised in Arizona that can not wait to leave this state. In those instances, where I feel a sort of at a loss for words, I can not bring myself to say anything; I wonder what has happened to these particular people to make them want to leave the most beautiful state where I was raised, learned how to ride a bike, took a bite of my favorite dish made from my mom, and where I live. The reason why I am always dumbfounded when I hear that they want to leave is that I feel a sort of patriotic towards Arizona. This state is where everything I love is, it is a place where I have been able to call my home for the past sixteen years.

I love Arizona, not because of its historical background, not because of its consistent and predictable weather but because of my family. Although my parents came to this country as aliens, they immigrated to the United States for a better life for my siblings, for me. They built a home from the ground up, with no connections, with no support from others, with their sweat and tears. My parents could have chosen another state to relocate to but they chose Arizona, for which I will always be grateful. As cliché as it may sound, the reason why Arizona is so integrated into my life is because of the efforts and love that were and continues to be given to me by my parents.

For starters, Arizona is home to thousands of immigrants that have come from all different places of the world. I find it rather astonishing that all these individuals can come to an unknown place and make it their home, especially Arizona. This is another reason why I love Arizona. I do not think I have ever gone to any place in Arizona that has not made me feel welcomed. Despite my skin color and background, I have never faced any discrimination. I would like to believe that it is because of the state I live in. Everyone is welcoming no matter a person's background or ethnicity.

Arizona has several great historical places and landmarks such as the Grand Canyon, I believe that the greatest place to visit in Arizona is the very homes of different individuals residing within. Everyone has a different story to share and that is why I love Arizona a lot. Not a single soul I have met in Arizona has the same story, they all have a beautiful history of their family or their lives in Arizona. A home in Arizona also represents how close-knitted they are, something more beautiful than the traditional landmark.

If I would take a person from a different state anywhere in the world, I would first take them to Arizona; a place where my family and my home are. I would introduce them to the house where I was raised, and my parents. While Arizona has one of the greatest sceneries both day and night, I want to place a greater emphasis on the importance of family. I understand the sacrifices that have been made by my parents for me to be where I am today. Without their efforts, I would not be the person I am today. My love for Arizona would not be as great as it is today without my family. I would repeat over and over that I love Arizona based on the simple fact that my family lives here and I am enriched in the beautiful historical background of Arizona because of them. I love Arizona because of my family, the hard efforts of many living here, and its diverse nature.