

Alexander Li

Failure Resume

Personal Failures

High School Life, 9th-12th grade. I spend most of my time studying and preparing for college. In retrospect, should have spent way more time with friends, learning new skills, and being my best self.

High School Cross Country, 9th grade. Did not train while I had a cast on my left arm. Probably could have run half decent times freshman year otherwise.

Trip to China, Summer 2017. I didn't go out of Shanghai much because my grandparents kept me in. Also should have spent way more time trying to learn to read and write Chinese.

Lost Passport, September 2019. It was the first thing I did on my first trip to Europe. Should have worn pants with smaller pockets.

Car Troubles, September 2020. Well, we took a Honda Civic on a dirt 4x4 road in the forest without cell phone signal. Really struggled to get the car out of that one.

Professional Failures

Internship at Pet Store, Spring 2017. Didn't have clear goals what I wanted out of my agriculture internship in high school. Ended up at stocking and cleaning a pet store. Should have worked in a nursery (way more interested in plants) or a veterinarian's.

SFMTA, Summer 2019. Didn't really think about what I wanted out of the summer. Missed out on professional connections.

EPC Consultants, October 2020. Quit within first few days because couldn't reach a virtual work agreement. Ended up actually working out (because we arranged a virtual work environment), but had a hard time communicating with my bosses.

Educational Failures

Freshman Year, 2017-2018. Should have taken a gap year. Wasn't really ready for college. Didn't know what I wanted or why I, personally, was going to college. Ended up making many poor choices that year (major, classes, friend groups, etc.)

Education as Self-Fashioning, Fall 2017. Didn't participate in discussion or engage with the professor.

History of Modern China, Fall 2017. Had to write a research proposal, should have sought help earlier, at office hours and at the University writing center. Should have submitted my research proposal for actual research grants, but was scared as a frosh.

Organic Chemistry, Spring 2018. Didn't attend office hours or read the textbook.