**"NYU was founded on the belief that a student’s identity should not dictate the ability for them to access higher education. That sense of opportunity for all students, of all backgrounds, remains a part of who we are today and a critical part of what makes us a world class university. Our community embraces diversity, in all its forms, as a cornerstone of the NYU experience.  
We would like to better understand how your experiences would help us to shape and grow our diverse community. Please respond in 250 words or less."**

Walking the uneven cobblestones of Greenwich Village reminded me of the cracked asphalt I traversed to explore Bulakan Shanty, a village in Indonesia. Being in an international school, culturally diverse as it is, meant that I was often separated from the rest of the Indonesian community. Interactions with people outside of my bubble expanded my view of diversity when I listened to the Bulakan Shanty residents’ stories, concerns that are miles different from what I experience at home.

It was from Bulakan Shanty that I learned the significance of starting a dialogue—not merely talking about one’s own experience, but also listening to others’—and I wanted to integrate this into my future, starting with finding a way to enhance a two-way communication between communities that lay on opposite sides of the spectrum. When I came across NYU’s Washington Square News (WSN), I was empowered by the clear embrace of diversity in the content across all articles, specfically in the area of healthcare.

In NYU’s WSN, I saw the perfect opportunity to contribute my own perspective as an Indonesian, well-accustomed to the reasons that essential healthcare topics like sexual education and mental health are so stigmatized or overlooked. Through the multiple lens that I have earned in my life thus far, from that of the Bulakan Shanty residents to myself as a global citizen, I would be able to expand upon social issues and offer different stances, partaking in while still learning from the melting pot of diverse experiences that is NYU.

Word count: 252 words

Hi Natasha,

Since the prompt is specifically asking how you will use your life experiences to enrich the diverse community, make sure that you use the space wisely to talk about what makes you the person you are today. The admission wants to see what kind of unique experiences or stories you have. What can you bring to the table?

**You can choose one of these two:**

* 1. Make a list of communities that you belong to (places, interests, action/activities, and circumstance). Talk about what you did, solved, learned, the impact you had, how you applied those lessons to other areas.
  2. Make a list of ways in which you identify—this can range from ethnicity or nationality to activities (gamer, reader, etc) or interests (ballet,singing, etc). Describe why these identities reveal different sides of you.

**After you pick one, make sure that your essay covers these parts:**

* In what ways will you contribute to diversity on campus?
* Are there organizations, groups, or programs that will allow you to continue service work or activities you’ve already done? Or are you going to start a club etc at NYU?

Best of luck,

Melinda