**Why do you want to attend UMass Amherst? 100\***

As an aspiring software engineer, I’m keen on developing state of art AI-powered software, with a particular interest in Natural Language Processing. I’m inspired by Prof.Mohit Iyyer’s research paper titled “Search-based Neural Structured learning”, and I look forward to collaborating with him regarding the applications of NLP in text formation and sequential question answering. Additionally, when I read Prof.Andrew McCallum’s syllabus for his class in COMPSCI 692A:AKBC, I was intrigued by the possibility of exploring knowledge bases, large-scale repositories of data. Through classes like these, I can further my understanding of deploying large-scale NLP software dealing with tons of data in the future.

**Why this major? 100\***

Being only 9 years old, Siri felt real, almost alive to me. Later on, I learned that it was artificial intelligence powering Siri. This prompted my interest in Computer Science. Since then, I’ve taken rigorous courses in programming and pursued independent studies. Fascinated by the possibilities of AI, I interned at a company where I learned about its applications through voice-activated bots and features in websites and apps. A major in computer science will allow me to gain the tools to develop more advanced voice recognition software by studying AI, specifically Natural Language Processors and Machine learning.