Our families and communities often define us and our individual worlds. Community might refer to your cultural group, extended family, religious group, neighborhood or school, sports team or club, co-workers, etc. Describe the world you come from and how you, as a product of it, might add to the diversity of the UW.

**Maximum length**: 300 words

**Tip**: Keep in mind that the UW strives to create a community of students richly diverse in cultural backgrounds, experiences, values and viewpoints.

Draft 2

Being told, “You’re very mature for self-studying at that age,” felt like a prize. Making myself known as the ‘independent child’ led to the extreme of feeling fulfillment in being a loner. My self-absorbed past was blinded by the belief that I can solve all my problems alone. However, the tables turned after the group of friends I now treasure first approached me during my sophomore year of high school. Not only did these very people teach me the value of teamwork and friendship, but also awaken the ambitious drive in me.

I began to embrace my true colors thanks to them. Their open-minded, accepting demeanor was comforting and influential. Unlike most peers, they too were highly determined and voluntarily involved in our school to make it a better place. Some are a part of the student council, and the rest propose seasonal event celebrations to the school leaders. Becoming a part of them, I myself was inspired to execute a community project. I planned an educational webinar for our juniors about time management, social skills, and mental well-being—one that would support their studies. What further moved me was the fact that these friends assisted me in transforming plans into reality.

Applying to the University of Washington and pursuing bioengineering, I wish to contribute to the many accomplishments UW has garnered through the BioEngage program. Merging my passion for biotech and regenerative medicine together with the determination I’ve fostered from my community—I am willing to proudly partake in UW’s revolution of medicine. I aim to do this by exchanging, forming and executing new ideas together with other members of the faculty to innovate, or perhaps even invent new treatments that may advance the medical field.

Draft 1

I had always cringed whenever my parents reminded me, “Humans are social beings,” until I experienced it myself. I never really had friends I truly connected with prior to high school, and oddly enough, I pride myself on being the lone wolf. I was a slave to independence.

At the start of sophomore year, I was invited by a batchmate to help start and be a part of an art club. Regardless of my internal reluctance, I felt terrible rejecting the offer. Little did I know that the starting club members would be the friends who’d change me. These are the very friends who turned fantasy into reality. “What if we were able to hand down soft-skill knowledge to our juniors?” I joked as I promptly brushed the idea off. Not even a month after, those friends and I found ourselves planning an educational webinar for 5th - 8th graders to attend. Christmas celebrations at school and forming an alliance with school leaders in order to bridge communication gaps between students and teachers were some of the plans my friends and I successfully executed together to make our school a better place, even if only a tad bit.

Through my community of friends, I have fostered an open mind and a passionate spirit. The old me would simply aim for a 4.0 GPA, while the reincarnated person I am wishes to turn ideas into reality. Aiming to pursue bioengineering, I hope to do so by maximizing UW’s resources, from its facilities to their students, exchanging ideas and collaborating to invent a creation that may solve issues relevant today, and possibly, the future.

Part #1 Describe the community: show the depiction of your old vs new self

Part #2 One episode that you want to highlight → close with what you learn

Part #3 What you want to bring to UDub

Hi Ashley,

Well done on your draft! From your writing above, I can see that your group of friends during high school did help you. I can also see how it is affecting you to become more compassionate and caring about others around you.

However, I think the prompt for the supplement essay is asking you to describe your community. Who are they? How do they differ from you? Why did you eventually enjoy becoming a part of them? What about them made you change your mind about connecting with others?

Another part that I think you could elaborate on further is your future contribution to UW based on what you have learned. Which group of people? Any chance to do it both in and out of the classroom settings? Show your understanding of UW by mentioning explicitly you could be contributing to its diversity.

With supplemental essays in general—due to the nature of their limited word count—you will need to be quite direct and concise in answering their questions.

Hope that helps and all the best with your application!

Kind regards,

Johana