**Every person has a creative side, and it can be expressed in many ways: problem solving, original and innovative thinking, and artistically, to name a few. Describe how you express your creative side. (350 words)**

When my friends asked me to tutor them math, at first I only regurgitated what our teacher had taught us in school. However, they didn’t seem to understand my explanation. Despite repeating myself a couple times and showing them solution to the problems, they still couldn’t grasp the concept I shared. I felt frustrated and yet challenged. I reflected on how I personally learn difficult subjects. I used my creativity to create analogies and terminologies with things I am familiar with, making me memorize and understand difficult subjects easily.

So instead of following the basic teaching methods, I cracked my mind in search of creative ways to simplify concepts and materials. I started by making short, simple videos using different props such as playing cards, coins, dice, and coloured beads to make bracelets to explain the real-life application of probability. Through these applications, my tutees became more receptive and motivated since they can relate to the concepts’ application and its relevance.

I would also use game terminology that my friends are familiar with to help them understand concepts and memorize formulas. For example, for the concept of integral to speed and velocity, the racing game Grand turismo comes in handy. My friend can immediately relate my explanation and he even joked that he manages to do the integral “Grand Turismo” problem on the exam. Gradually, these methods helped my tutees to better analyse and solve problems, gaining improvements in scores by about 15%.

Through teaching, I realized that people have different understandings of a problem. It may be easy for some but hard for others. I learned that we cannot presume a single solution to work for everyone, but instead understand their varying circumstances and use creativity to help people better understand what they are facing. In the future, I hope I can continue using my creative problem-solving thinking and willing heart to help others not only in the math field, but also assist them in other fields.

~~their personal problems through daily conversations and interactions.~~

Notes:

I think that structure wise, your essay is almost good to go.

My suggestions have to do with giving more specific examples of your experience so that the reader can grasp the depth of what you have been working on.

**Think about an academic subject that inspires you. Describe how you have furthered this interest inside and/or outside of the classroom. (350 words)**

(304 words)

Ever since I was little, I have always thought that efficiency is key to succeeding, turning it into my life’s main focus. While researching some potential careers aligned with my interest, I found industrial engineering which deals with optimizing productivity of a process or a system. I asked my father if I could visit his warehouse as he runs  a tire manufacturing company for Mitsubishi; I wanted to observe the assembly process and its efficiency. During my visit, I noticed bottleneck on some manual processes and idle stations from frequent late deliveries.

In my quest to help my father, I implemented a reporting system to collect the data of each process for analysis. I then used statistics to analyze the difference between the ordering lead time and production to find the optimal stock inventory to reduce the idle time. While my calculation was useful to pinpoint problems, I was stuck when brainstorming how to optimize the entire production process.

After, I interned at Mitsubishi Corporation where I learned how to identify bottlenecks and experiment with creative solutions. I was mainly tasked with preparing orders and supply requests, but also helped synthesize insights on observations I made on product code accuracy, shipment scheduling, and delivery risk. I noticed frequent inventory data discrepancies between the warehouse and their third-party logistics. So, I suggested an idea to create an automation of product labelling to make order placing more accurate. and minimizes manual checking works. Despite not being tested yet, the proposal got submitted to team development for the next cycle review. Although just for 2 weeks, my exposure to a distribution warehouse have helped me understand the complexity of logistics, factors that come into play in improving process efficiency, and further developed my creative problem-solving skills.

Inspired by how the iterative process directly contributes to operational improvement, I aspire to pursue industrial engineering, which I believe to be the heart of any operation.

~~to help my father’s company and others in the logistics and transportation industries.~~

**Beyond what has already been shared in your application, what do you believe makes you a strong candidate for admissions to the University of California? (350 words)**

When I look at the world we live in, I see many untapped opportunities to improve the lives of people. In my eagerness to be industrious I learned that passion and skills must be balanced with humility and open-mindedness. During the start of the pandemic, I saw on TV that the government is trying to ensure a continuing education for students in remote areas through virtual lessons. However, the lack of access to internet and electricity was the main hindrance. So, I put my skills to work on a solar-powered power bank, named PS2, suitable for people living in places with intermittent electricity. The end goal is to improve these population’s access to electronics so children can browse the internet and attend virtual lessons.

I was very focused on ensuring the quality of the product is long lasting and effective. Though I was confident with the product and promoted it to varying communities, nobody was interested in buying my product. I was baffled and intrigued. I took a step back and revisited every feature and reflected on the primary value proposition of this product. I researched the gross household income of the remote places that would have benefitted from this solar-powered power bank. I discovered that at the present version, they will not be able to afford PS2. I had opted for specifications such as fast charging, military-grade durability, and lightweight portability which made the cost of the prototype too high. Had I communicated with my target audience, I would have known this earlier, not two years later.

From this experience, I realized that productivity and specifications are not the only key ingredients to changing the world through innovation. I learned that in everything we do, we need to be more humane, understanding the need of the people and the impact of our action on people, should always be precedence over any other considerations. The future possibilities of improving the lives of the people are endless, and so are my passion and energy to do as such.

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Many things in life, including failures, can unearth tiny revelations with the potential to yield large and positive impacts on society.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Gathering more information to correct design misassumptions early is always better than fixing problems at the end.

Notes:

I think you have a solid story.

I would establish a focus on one point that you want to showcase to the reader as the quality that makes you a strong candidate and sets you apart from other applicants before you start the story. What do you want the reader to remember about you from reading this story?

In your conclusion you listed a few qualities which are all valid and related to your story. However, I suggest focusing on summarizing your point in one sentence and show a glimpse of it in the introduction and tie your conclusion to the introduction.

All the best!

**What have you done to make your school or your community a better place? (350 words)**

(350 words)  
My interest in travelling combined with passion to help people brought me to volunteer with DoctorShare to provide healthcare to those living on a small remote island called Kei Island in Maluku, Indonesia. To get to the island, I had to take two planes, a car ride, and finally reach the island by boat.

The program was to help the residence with medical treatment and implement a plastic waste compactor to help them with their waste management problems. Upon interacting, I found that the people, especially children, have minimal knowledge on basic hygiene and health maintenance. Even a simple habit of washing their hands before eating was not common, and many still refuse to get medical treatment when they are sick. It was disheartening to see them suffering from diarrhoea and typhoid due to these conditions. I proposed to set up events in school near the clinics with the goal of educating children in the hopes of improving the standard of living of the people there. I suggested implementing hygiene protocols such as washing hands before entering class and gave talks to children on the importance of taking care of their health.

Although I only had two weeks to educate those children, I could already see the improvements in how they approached their daily activities. One major impact I saw was that children started to seek cover when a heavy rain was pouring down. Whereas before, I would see them playing outside of their school.

Through this experience I learn first-hand that, as Aesop put it, kindness is more persuasive than force. With a sincere intention, anyone can bring about changes and big changes come from small act. There are still many communities in Indonesia that have a very low level of awareness on health and hygiene. This raised my interest to reach out to a larger community in Indonesia to bring awareness of health and hygiene which I will continue to work on in the future.

Notes:

I think you need to focus on one point throughout your story. I can see that you learned many things that you listed in your conclusion (seeing the big picture, considering variables, process to achieve a goal is more important than the goal itself, raised interest to reach out to larger community).

However, I suggest taking one point that you can start and end with. In between, you can tell your story from that one perspective and in the end project where you’re going with that point in the future.

All the best!