Karen

1. **Tell us something you have done outside your school curriculum to prepare yourself for your chosen degree course(s). For example, did you work in a relevant part-time job, or did you take an online course? (550 characters)**

I participated in a competition where we created an ideal virtual dressing room for the retail industry. This experience allowed me to apply the knowledge taught in class like making financial statements and a marketing strategy. I was critiqued by mentors, revisited my business plans along the way, discussed convoluted numbers with the group until they made sense, and answered critical questions from judges. It not only increased my passion for business, but also prepared my character to handle the hardships that come with it.

1. **Tell us about a time when you failed to do something on your first try, but succeeded on subsequent attempts. How did you learn from your initial failure, change your approach, so that you eventually succeeded? (550 characters)**

During a science fair in grade 7, my poor speaking skills hindered me from vocalizing my thoughts. I shut my own ideas down in fear of conflict. This made me realise the cruciality of public speaking skills, which led me to sign up for the school’s debate club. The activities were really intimidating and I thought of backing out. However, I decided to embrace the challenge and showed eagerness to learn. I spent after school hours preparing for model UN competitions which taught me to formulate speeches quickly, express disagreement in a diplomatic manner, and speak with clarity. After my fourth competition, I finally gained confidence when doing public speaking. I succeed in achieving awards, becoming MC in events, and expressing my ideas in teamwork.

This experience makes me see my shortfalls as opportunities to develop myself instead of insecurities. I learn that being courageous is a good option when facing challenges.

There is not much on the “not succeeding on your first try” part. Elaboorating on it a little might make the trajectory of the short essay clearer.

1. **Tell us about something that is meaningful to you, and why. (550 characters)**

Confident humility is the driving force of my performance inside and outside the classroom. Interested in learning what happens beyond a company’s operations, I registered for A level Economics without having the basic knowledge from IGCSE. The lectures were overwhelming for me, but I had optimism that I would eventually get it. I’m confident with my ability to learn while being aware of my knowledge gaps. I realized that this self-awareness pushes me to actualize the potential that I have.

1. **What is your proudest achievement? How does it display your commitment and how you have been enterprising? Please also explain how it exemplifies some of the five NUS values of Innovation, Resilience, Excellence, Respect, and Integrity. (1100 characters)**

In grade 11, I wrote a research paper on the lack of education for children with special needs in Indonesia. I realized this issue couldn’t be tackled easily, so I decided to start a passion project called “This Ability,” a project not only aimed to collect money but also empower children with special needs.

I chose to sell a sweater with a compilation of the children’s handwriting of “Aku lebih dari keterbatasanku”, meaning “I am more than my limitations.”

When trying to explain this project through phone calls, most respondents were out of reach. Those who answered said they will contact me back but never did. I kept contacting more schools until finally SLB Pangudi Luhur, a school with students who have hearing disabilities, invited me to meet their principal. The teacher told me that some of the children have their school fees unpaid due to financial struggles, so I dedicated all profits from this fundraising for them. Then, I searched for suppliers, negotiated prices, and promoted this fundraising through social media and school announcements. We successfully generated more than 6 million IDR in revenue.

This experience taught me integrity in doing a project on my own. I would take any opportunity to build upon this project in the future and hope that I can use my business skills to help at an even larger scale.

1. **Is there anything else about yourself which you want us to know? (550 characters)**

While I dedicate myself to achieving high academic results, I also like to express my other passions: performing arts and early childhood education. I directed plays for school and was involved in short movie productions which boosted my creativity, coordination, and leadership skills. During family gatherings, I’m the one who entertains the little cousins and I also take care of children at church. I consider it to be my mission to be part of improving the education of children and NUS will prepare me with the knowledge and values to achieve it.

How will you improve their education? I would substitute the last sentence of the short answer into a more specific goal regarding early chilhood education.