## *✅* 7: What have you done to make your school or your community a better place? (350/350 words)

Upon visiting a public school in my hometown, my eyes were drawn to the “computer room” where seemingly perplexed students were typing no more than three words per minute. A teacher approached me, stating that it was the third graders’ first day using the computer to learn basic English phrases in an online textbook. With rare use of computers, students couldn’t effectively utilize this source of knowledge. Public schools tried incorporating English and technology into lessons, but the students’ struggles I saw made me realize something wasn’t working.

In the following weeks, I pondered upon ways I could help. After helping peers build their own websites as an extracurricular, I realized that my knowledge in web development could help break down the students’ literacy barriers. I envisioned a digital platform with proficiency boosters andthought about my ownexperiences during the initial stages of learning English. My memories of excitement when I read ‘The Three Little Pigs’ in kindergarten English classes led to me create an e-library containing English literature - giving the students an engaging introduction to the language and digital learning.

The e-library presented me with difficult challenges and decisions, especially when I had to tailor it to accommodate the specific needs of the different schools I partnered with. Despite this, I was glad knowing the format provides the library to multiple schools. It delighted me when students left book reviews, requested for more and attempted English conversations; they learned to navigate websites and were enthusiastic to learn this language.

Seeing many Indonesian young learners struggle to adapt to the digital world made me realize that people in my country were sailing boats in the dark. I made my community a better place by building a lighthouse that gives light to their paths to their goals – the Lighthouse Library.

Hi Farrel,

Thank you for your essay. To strengthen this essay, you can be more specific to how you improved your community. What were the challenges that you faced in creating the platform and how did you address them? How did you measure a student’s proficiency level? Did you receive feedback from their teachers?

C.G.

## *✅* 3: What would you say is your greatest talent or skill? How have you developed and demonstrated that talent over time? (355/350 words)

A classmate once spotted me solving a rubik’s cube and approached me. “That’s insane! Can you teach me how to solve it?” Though I was initially worried that he would take my place as the fastest ‘speed-cuber’ in my grade, I agreed knowing I can finally share this hobby with someone else.

While walking him through several solves, he found difficulties in following the last step, so I brought my entire collection of Rubik’s cubes which helped him comprehend the possible patterns at that stage. Eventually, he smiled in gratitude from his first successful solve, and I found myself smiling along with him.

He solved a cube in thirty seconds the following week with shouts of joy for hitting a new record. His contagious enthusiasm made me continue supporting him. In just a few months, he cheered “Eight seconds!” as his new record overtook mine. I celebrated with just as much joy.

I discovered I want to help other people achieve their goals. wanted to do so in other fields too. I began teaching for the competition mathematics club in my school. Aside from sharing techniques and concepts that I learned and developed through various mathematics competitions; I gave members problem sets that were more challenging, exercising their skills. Their smiles hinted at an increase in their knowledge and passion for the subject. I also co-founded a website development club after hearing many admiring comments websites on the internet and the students’ desire to make one themselves. Though I needed to learn new programming languages and concepts, the personal guidance I gave the club members was worth the effort.

Farrel,

For this essay, I would focus on the prompt that asks how you developed this talent over time. You mentioned the two in-school projects that demonstrated this talent, but what about its progress? How did you improve on these two activities? Will you be doing more of this? If not, what will you being and how will it be better than your previous work? What are the lessons that you’ve learned from these projects and how have you incorporated them in current/future projects?

C.G.