## *✅* 1: Describe an example of your leadership experience in which you have positively influenced others, helped resolve disputes or contributed to group efforts over time. (356/350)

I was excited about the increased use of electronic devices in my high school classes, but unsettled to see students sitting with their phones, texting others who were nearby. However, I saw a gleam of hope - a dusty and unused ping pong table.

I brought two paddles and a ball to school and asked a classmate to try out this sport. At first it was just us two, but our shouts of victory and defeat caught others’ attention. I invited more people and others joined on their own - those who had been fixated on their screens. Occasionally, I freaked out when people slammed my paddles loudly after losing. But it was satisfying to hear sounds of interaction over typing.

Through shared enjoyment, I created a community of students gathering every lunch break to get physically active while engaging in small talk and laughter.

However, one of them stopped showing up after expressing his loss of interest. Though I was anticipating this from a couple of members, more quickly followed suit and returned sitting immobile with their phones. I realized the fragility of enjoyment and increasingly felt the need to preserve it. Through observation and inquiring those who left, I figured that the missing glue of this community was variety; all our games were repetitive.

With the hope of bringing variety, I began to regularly practice challenging table tennis techniques at home - spins, chops, ghost-serves, and flicks - all of which cause the ball to move oddly. I started bringing these techniques to school. My opponents were initially bewildered but quickly engaged as they tried coming up with techniques to counter them. As a result, we continued being physically active and strengthened existing friendships through our rejuvenated enjoyment of this common interest.

I learned the importance of a goal and a leader’s desire to achieve it. Though gluing a community together is tireless, the priceless results motivated me to sustain the table tennis group and continue doing so in other communities I’ll belong to at UC.

Notes:

I think generally your story is straightforward.

You have clearly narrated your story and implied that you were concerned with the lack of social interaction and your hopes for more community engagement. However, as a reader I want to explicitly hear your own words of what you were concerned about and what you wanted to achieve, even if only briefly. This is what my comments above address.

All the best!

## *✅* 6: Think about an academic subject that inspires you. Describe how you have furthered this interest inside and/or outside of the classroom. (348/350 words)

Though I have been intrigued with the analytical problem-solving aspect of mathematics, I am particularly drawn to Statistics - seeing a YouTube video on predictive analytics and data-driven robots made me realize the significance of Statistics in modern technology. My initial fascination grew when I realized that it was the basis of impactful innovations, including Roomba robots, predictive disaster-relief models and automated recommendation systems. Statistics extends my love for problem-solving to tackle issues that the world faces.

I entered my IB Mathematics program eager to use Statistics as a solution to real-world problems. I sought the opportunity to learn a new branch of Statistics, Survival Analysis, as I was fascinated by its capabilities in quantifying risk to effectively predict probabilistic events’ occurrences in the future. Seeing its potential in tackling employee resignations, I decided to use Survival Analysis in my Mathematics Internal Assessment to investigate statistically significant factors that affect employee resignations. This strengthened my knowledge in applied statistics and fostered in me a greater fascination for this subject. While I was glad about this project’s contribution to my report grade, I was more content with my newfound knowledge on solutions to a prevailing real-world issue.

This also led me to seek an internship as a data scientist, where I got to explore and apply more statistical models to different real-world scenarios. Here, I built regression models with consumer data from the educational technology startup’s mobile application to tailor the app to the learning needs of Indonesian students. Though it required an advancement in my technical skills, I also had to develop my communication skills. When collaborating with people of different technical backgrounds, I needed to provide comprehensive explanations of the statistical models, reasonings and conclusions. Surprisingly, this exercised my critical thinking as I became more wary of wrong and misleading conclusions caused by misinterpretations of data, especially p-hacking’s capability to inflate data favorability.

Statistics allows me to enact social changes that benefit my community through real-world problem solving, and thus I intend to pursue this further at UC as a steppingstone for my academic and community-oriented goals.

Notes:

I think this is almost good to go!

## *✅* 3: What would you say is your greatest talent or skill? How have you developed and demonstrated that talent over time? (351/350 words)

A classmate 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 hesitant 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.

Walking him through several solves, he found difficulties in grasping the last step. So, I brought my entire collection of Rubik’s cubes, which helped him see and comprehend all possible patterns at that stage. Eventually, he smiled in gratitude from his first successful solve, and I found myself feeling completely happy for him.  
  
He reached thirty seconds the following week, with shouts of joy after achieving new records. With his contagious enthusiasm, I continued giving him advice for improvement. In just a few months, he cheered “Eight seconds!” as his new record overtook mine as the fastest. But I was celebrating with just as much joy. Helping someone else’s victory also felt like my victory.

I discovered a skill and passion that I consider my greatest: helping other people achieve their goals. I saw my capability in sharing knowledge to help a friend reach milestones and was inspired to do so in other aspects of my life.

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 club members problem sets that were more challenging than before, thus exercising their mathematical problem-solving skills. Their smiles of gratification hinted at an increase in their knowledge and passion for mathematics competitions.

I also co-founded a school club on website development after hearing many comments of admiration about fascinating websites on the internet, and their desire to make one themselves. Though I needed to learn new programming languages and concepts myself, I was satisfied with the personal guidance I gave the club members - the knowledge I provided was tailored to their individual goals and intentions for their websites.

I no longer desire to surpass others, and instead desire to help them get to where they wish.