**Describe the most significant challenge you have faced and the steps you have taken to overcome this challenge. How has this challenge affected your academic achievement? (350 words)**

I knew I did something wrong when almost everybody in my math class gets 6s and 7s. I was  challenged by the fact that the topic itself was understandable, and fairly easy to do, yet I only got 5 out of 7. I checked the comments to determine what I did wrong, but the comment was always the same, “Revise More!”.

The problem with that is, I don’t know where to start. A lot of peers recommended me to get a private tutor, but I have had bad experiences with private tutors in the past and often they didn’t give me a significant impact. I was ashamed and stressed that I couldn’t reach above a 5 in the math subject. If this pattern continues, then the opportunity for me to major in engineering is in jeopardy.

When I arrived home that day, I googled the questions, and I found the working out online. I observed how the author did it. I found out that the methods I used were correct, but I input the wrong plus or minus signs, and often use “shortcuts” that lead to answers. All of the errors could be avoided if I practiced more questions on the topic, and started to utilize past papers.

From that point on, I started a routine of studying a minimum of an hour every tuesdays, thursdays and fridays. This studying schedule is not only focused for math, but also for other subjects as well. Not only that, I expanded my revision materials to include past IB test papers, and questions from the textbook. Though at first it was a hassle, I eventually got used to the routine and made it my productive habit.

The impact of this routine has been positive not only for my academic achievements, but also myself. I became more disciplined, and more aware of my use of time. I also learned the value of time, and how an extra hour is beneficial for my studies and myself.

On my last math test, I got a 7.

Hi I Nyoman,

Thank you for your submission. I am unsure about choosing this story as your most significant challenge you have faced. Do you have other stories that have a deeper impact on your life / perception? I think something more personal will be more attractive to the admissions officer. I will also pay attention to part of the prompt that asks how this affected your academic achievements. In addition to improving your grades, you should also mention what you learned from changing your learning methods.

C.G.