**Common App Essay Draft**

**Body:**

As I walked into the first meeting of the computer science club, a mixture of excitement and nervousness fluttered in my chest. Creating and joining the Comsci Club marked a significant turning point in my high school journey. Little did I know at the time, it would become a transformative experience that would shape my perspective on the importance of community and personal growth.

Initially, I had always been hesitant to share my interests openly, fearing judgment or a lack of understanding from others. However, my passion for computer science was too strong to keep hidden any longer. The creation of the Comsci Club allowed me to break free from my self-imposed barriers and unleash my enthusiasm for all things tech-related.

The moment I stepped into that room, I was greeted by an atmosphere of shared excitement and curiosity. It was a community where everyone had a common language, an unspoken understanding of the intricacies and wonders of computer science. Suddenly, my fears began to dissipate as I realized I was surrounded by individuals who shared my passions and thirst for knowledge. Through the club, I discovered the immense joy of connecting with like-minded individuals. From engaging in intense coding discussions to brainstorming innovative project ideas, every interaction with my fellow club members was invigorating. The club meetings were a sanctuary, a place where my ideas were met with encouragement and where I could freely express my thoughts without reservation.

Being part of the Comsci Club also taught me the value of stepping out of my comfort zone. I eagerly volunteered to present my projects and share my ideas with the group, despite my initial apprehension. Each time I took that leap, I realized that growth lies just beyond the edge of our comfort zone. The positive feedback and constructive criticism I received from my peers motivated me to push my boundaries further and strive for continuous improvement. Moreover, the club provided ample opportunities for collaboration, enabling me to expand my skills beyond what I thought possible. Working on group projects with my peers allowed me to witness the power of teamwork and the exponential growth that arises from collective effort. I learned to appreciate diverse perspectives and leverage the strengths of each team member, ultimately achieving results that surpassed our individual capabilities.

Beyond the club meetings and projects, the Comsci Club exposed me to a broader world of computer science. We attended conferences, workshops, and hackathons as a group, immersing ourselves in the cutting-edge advancements of the field. These experiences nurtured my thirst for knowledge, further solidifying my passion for computer science and opening my eyes to the myriad of opportunities available in the tech industry.

**Closing:**

In retrospect, joining and creating the Comsci Club was a pivotal moment in my high school years. It taught me that embracing my passions and connecting with like-minded individuals can lead to extraordinary personal growth and fulfillment. The club fostered an environment where I could overcome my fear of sharing my interests, encouraging me to express myself confidently and fearlessly.

As I embark on the next chapter of my academic journey, I carry with me the invaluable lessons I learned from the Comsci Club. I now approach new opportunities with an open mind and a willingness to step out of my comfort zone. I am eager to join a larger community of passionate individuals in college, where I can continue to expand my horizons, collaborate with diverse minds, and make a positive impact through the intersection of computer science and society.

The Comsci Club taught me that a shared passion can create bridges, dissolve barriers, and bring individuals together. I am grateful for the opportunities it presented and the invaluable lessons it taught me, forever shaping the person I am today.

**Prompt #1**

**Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.**

Hi Kenzo,

Your passion for the club is truly captivating, and I can feel your excitement through your writing. However, to make your essay even more compelling, consider adding specific anecdotes and instances that highlight the moments when you decided to step out of your comfort zone. These personal stories will allow the reader to understand the thought process behind your transformation from the "pre-state" to the "post-state."

Additionally, focus on showcasing your leadership and camaraderie through engaging and vivid narratives. Instead of generalizing the strengths of each member and your contributions, paint a picture of the fun and exciting experiences you shared as a team. This will create a sense of warmth and familiarity for your readers, making your essay even more impactful.

I have left specific comments and sample revisions throughout your essay to guide you on which parts could benefit from revisions. By incorporating these changes, your essay will clearly showcase your growth and evolution as a person, and you can proudly present the "current you" to the admissions committee. Keep up the great work, and I look forward to seeing your essay shine with these improvements!

Best regards,

Melinda