Action benefit cause

- velvet youth club

- learning French

- head of book club: leading Tolstoy’s war and peace

- pick a family event

- talk about lectures and books

- conversation

- oxford summer school:

- specific details

- skills: soft skills and hard skills

- head of self-defence club

- secretary of best buddies

- MUN representing Korea

- silver award

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Question in mind:

- how does these skills help you in your subject?

“Interruption!” said my late grandfather, my forever political aspiration, during the people’s consultative general assembly in the new order under Suharto’s regime. Back then, interruptions were prohibited. Growing up in a politically acclaimed family in Indonesia where politics is interlinked with nepotism and corruption had me first-hand experience its effects. As an 11-year-old I saw my father getting called to his ministerial inauguration in his white *batik* only to be disappointed with my political party because of the head’s personal vigilance towards my dad in getting overshadowed by his attainments and see him walk through my doors instead of the presidential palace’ when his name was called on. This transformative event made me eager to change Indonesia’s political image and upholding what my grandfather has instilled in me: Politics is sacred.

In an independent personal project, I explored the theme of government and was privileged to interview Joko Widodo, Indonesia’s current president and learned the importance of system in government to keep order. Since then, I have extended my study into examining how his rival, Prabowo Subianto joined the coalition of Joko Widodo’s presidency in his ministerial cabinet from a psychological lens. My study has allowed me recognition from executives from Indonesian think-tanks as well as a seat in important conversations regarding Indonesia’s current issues and strategies to improve political candidates where my analytical and detail-oriented skills are valued. It also enhanced my ability to contextualize situations from a psychological standpoint.

This gave me a comprehensive advantage in sharing insights when I became an editor and advisor for one of the people’s consultative members’ books called *Diplomasi parlamen dan Politik Luar Negeri R.* We applied a similar framework used in my study where psychological theories were utilized to inspect motives behind political decisions and figures' behaviour on Suharto’s 22-year dictatorial regime as well as how Indonesia’s foreign policy show how democracy was first introduced and the progression it caused as a result. Through the book, I also unveiled how the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is an epitome of Israelite imperialism and how the conflict was evident in the imperialism. This was a similar topic I explored in the Oxford international politics summer program where I also discovered that the Israeli-Palestinian conflict was more towards land territory rather than the common portrayal of the dispute as a divisive mismatch between Islam and Judaism. From the application of my studies, I discovered that politics is not just a subject within its realm but one that integrates others like business, psychology, social work, and language to magnify its subject.

I see this converge during my gap year when I co-founded a thrift shop called Velvet Youth Club (VYC), started a project on how to distribute food waste through an application, learned French, and led a book club. Through VYC and my projects, I learned how to collaborate and communicate with charitable organizations to support cancer survivors, animal shelters and COVID-19 frontlines. Which are important skills that I take when representing North Korea in LIMUN when discussing safeguarding and critical infrastructure against threats from cyberspace with delegates to find a collective solution to enforce together as well as becoming the head of the self-defense club at school where I recruited and organized students. Leading the dissection of Tolstoy’s *war and peace* at my neighborhood made me realize the importance of language. The book has many translations, and the French language was not only used for communication but to also represent social standing, preserving historical, political, and cultural details from the time. This shows the importance of language in international relations for comprehension. *Caustique* is an instance in the book where the French word must be kept for readers to understand the intent, so it was a uniform agreement by all the translators to retain the word. Learning French gave me profound understanding of Tolstoy’s lexical resource which made me understand his underlying intent and confidence to lead the book club. These were transferable skills that I applied when I was the secretary of best buddies where I organized potluck, gala dinners, and movie nights with our disabled buddies that we foster with branches of best buddies from other schools.

In the future, I hope to be a political researcher and make valuable contributions through my findings and charitable work in society.

Hi Amaris:

Your essay presents many different sides of you shown through a plethora of activities. I really like how you transition from what you learned specifically in the discipline of politics to other unrelated extracurricular activities.

In the second to last paragraph, you listed the following activities:

* Velvet Youth Club
* Distributing food waste
* Learned French
* Lead a book club
* MUN
* Head of self-defense club
* Secretary of Best Buddies

I understand you want to showcase as many activities and skills you acquired as possible. However, as a reader, the number of activities you listed is a bit overwhelming and the structure seems to jump from one activity to another without proper transition. The word count also leaves very little room for you at the end to reflect on how all those activities tie into your pursuit of political research and your plans for the future.

You can list down a bunch of activities (like you did at the beginning of the second to last para), but I suggest only elaborating on two or three that support your essay strongly to keep with the word count. I suggest clearly segmenting the paragraphs for each activity. Also indicate explicitly what skill/lesson you learned from each activity and how that relates to politics.

At the end, I think you have a really good opportunity to craft a solid concluding paragraph to show the admissions officer your well-rounded life. Go back to your introduction and summarize concisely what you learned through all these activities focusing on: 1) how that ties into politics, and 2) what you plan to do in the future.

All the best!