Made suggestions to improve application essay and strengthen arguments **Q7: What have you done to make your school or your community a better place?**

When the pandemic first started, my cousin and I started a small organization we named “Storkproject”. It started when me and my cousin's art teacher mentioned a problem of the closing of art galleries in Jakarta. With these shows closed, local artists were forced to find other means to survive by taking on odd jobs. Doing so, they did not have time to focus on their passion - making art.

    We first decided to work together with 4 artists throughout the pandemic by selling their artworks on wearable and much more accessible items for the general public. We provided the artist with painting materials and merchandise. It started with t-shirts. tote-bags to paint on. When the artworks were finally given to us, it was a burst of color. Unlike most products, there were real and unique brushstrokes on the merchandise. Impressionistic animals, graphical flowers and abstract patterns were painted on a variety of wearable merchandise. Bringing color to the rather dark time we were living in. After the great response from our customers, we decided to make totebags and aprons with 4 other artists.

Furthermore, they asked that 30% of the profit be donated to others who were also in dire need. Because it was ramadan season, a special holiday for muslims, we decided to give street dwellers and small shop owners “sembako bags”. These packages consisting of cooking oil, rice, snacks, instant noodles, are  usually given out during ramadan.

From this project, I was reminded of a valuable yet often underrated action: empathy. Even though our goal is to help out the artist financially, we encouraged the artists to make art. This maintained their passion, dignity and respect, even during times where art might not feel like a valuable skill. Art is not just a pretty painting to look at - it can deliver joy and color from doorstep to doorstep.