Describe an example of your leadership experience in which you have positively influenced others, helped resolve disputes or contributed to group efforts over time. (350 words)

450 lmao

As a high school freshman, three friends and I talked about starting a bakery. However, they became pessimistic, believing that the pandemic had ruined our chances of starting this business. Despite my motivation to realize it, persuading them was fruitless. Thus, I went ahead, hoping they would eventually rejoin.

I started by creating the concept using free graphic design websites. Then, I researched potential pastries for our business and future variations of baked goods. With every bit of development I updated the boys on, they started offering help. Finally, the whole team was complete again.

Knowing them very well, I assigned them tasks respective to their capabilities. The math whizz was in charge of financials; the social butterfly was head of marketing; the well-organized one had to deal with suppliers. I was the manager, responsible for keeping the momentum afloat. While technically director of product development, I had to dabble in finance, management, and a bit of marketing to ensure the quality of our preparation.

As a person who values clear communication, I encouraged the flow of information to inspire discussion. I implemented biweekly progress meetings so that we could plan where to focus our efforts next. During these meetings, I cultivated an atmosphere of collaboration by striving to understand and include others' opinions and ideas on specific issues.

Most importantly, I aspired to finish this project together. Despite not directly meeting my team members, I pushed to be more perceptive of their mental and physical health. For example, if one of my teammates showed signs of burnout, I would insist on taking over his agenda, and my two other friends would assist with mine. After three months of toil and trouble, we finally opened our bakery in July 2021, naming it *Maison Butter*.

Looking back, I realize that leadership requires courage and compassion. Had I been too scared to initiate this journey or been insensitive toward my coworkers, I wouldn't have had the opportunity to create something bigger than myself. I will continue developing my leadership skills, for I still have much to learn.

Your narrative about your defining moment of leadership is clearly outlined here. There are THE CHALLENGE, THE ACTION, and THE LESSON. You’ve also utilized active verbs to highlight your contribution and the values that you’ve learned. Good job!

What have you done to make your school or your community a better place? (350 words) 349

Eid-Al-Fitr has always been my favorite day of the year, not for the festivity but for the food.

Curiously sneaking into the kitchen of my local neighborhood mosque in Jakarta as a kid, I would watch local aunties pour their hearts into preparing an Eid-worthy feast for low-income families who lived in the kampong nearby. This experience taught me that food is more about togetherness and compassion than the dishes, and those aunties inspired me to promote togetherness through food.

Since March 2021, I've been a regular attendee at my local mosque during evening prayer as a *muezzin* and volunteer. Inspired by the meals that reminded me of Eid, I would often help cook ~30 portions of beef *rendang*, steamed rice, and vegetables for the mosque's special occasions. Here, I met Pak Samsul, another regular *muezzin*, who encouraged me to extend my volunteerism by helping low-income children from impoverished neighborhoods.

In November 2021, aiming to empower and provide food support for poor children in Jakarta, I founded *Grow and Grub*. I developed various well-balanced meals emphasizing affordable, high-quality protein, carbs, and fiber. Through fundraising, I managed to provide at least 50 meals for orphanages in *Kebon Melati*, a low-income area of Jakarta. Using the meal, I taught the children some nutritional concepts, such as calories, macronutrients, and the importance of each ingredient for the body.

*Grow and Grub* has helped me channel my love for cooking and sharing food while directly making a difference in my own way. As an Indonesian youth, I saw myself in these children — curious, enthusiastic, and willing to learn new things. I felt humbled seeing how enthused and excited they were about my cooking and learning about nutrition.

While the process of donating and preparing food is lengthy, it will always bring me to that solace, a point where my sense of purpose is confirmed. The amount of time and sweat I spend preparing food is incomparable to the joy it brings to everyone. Therefore, I will continue to pay forward — the love those aunties taught me through food and togetherness.

Your response to this prompt is also well executed. Your genuine effort to make a change in your community is demonstrated, and you’re even able to use your love of food to bring people together.

One thing that can you can do to make this essay stronger is to be more explicit with the positive influence that you’ve made. Include some more details about the visible impacts from the children. I’ve left some notes above to help you elaborate by correlating the children’s response with your initial motive in starting *Grow and Grub.*

Beyond what has already been shared in your application, what do you believe makes you a strong candidate for admission to the University of California? 361

I have been told that I'm a living paradox.

I live by the Quran but serve the liturgy. I am a reserved person at heart, just like any average Indonesian, but one who champions bold stances and smashes scathing rebuttals in the school's debate club. I'm made a minority in a national school packed with children of immigrants, yet I pledge my allegiance to the school's diversity by cultivating it. Without losing my identity, I stand for everything different, opposite, and antithetical, enriched and molded by everyday experience.

Despite being a Muslim in an all-boys Jesuit school, I unlocked a deeper faith through learning Catholicism. I found comfort when the verses of the Bible, which taught tolerance and compassion, mirrored the teachings in the Quran. Inspired by the gratitude, I sought to embrace my Catholic brothers by becoming an assistant organizer of the school cathedral, preparing mass and facilitating the congregants.

The greatest lesson I took from debating wasn't public speaking but embracing a side of my character that I overlooked. Usually avoiding clashes of opinions, the roaring manner of my teammates arrogantly leading their arguments felt imposing at first. But, as I grew as a debater, I learned to adapt their tenacity to my speech while preserving my pacifistic nature.

I'm grateful that debating has become a medium for me to voice my opinions. If I didn't, I wouldn't be aware that my Malukan and Papuan classmates refrained from sharing their vibrant cultures to fit in. By Hosting diversity day, a potluck gathering to illuminate under-represented cultures, I invited my eastern-Indonesian classmates to bring their culture's most delectable dishes (I brought Javanese staples too!). My goal was to blend a part of their rich culture with a new school tradition to facilitate a learning experience for myself and other students.

Each of my experiences is a puzzle piece, yet all of them fits perfectly, leading me to discover my place within this community. Going forward, I will always remain a student of differences, a disciple of humanity, and a learner of diversity, equality, and inclusion. At UC, I seek to infuse the same spirit and contribute to UC's diverse learning community.

This is another well-written piece that can work much more effectively by tweaking it a bit. You already have a descriptive content, a strong narrative, and a relevant answer to the prompt, but there is room for improvement.

One literary device that would have elevate your essay is the use of anaphora to begin each of your content paragraphs about the experiences that made you *you.* This literary device will make for a cohesive essay that is easy to follow and a much more memorable read for the admission officers. (see comments above)

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

*Wait, what?*

Upon reviewing the solar-powered power bank design for the organization I cofounded to promote renewable energy, I discovered an overlooked flaw. The heat-absorbent, black casing encapsulating the power bank's heat-sensitive semiconductors could ruin its longevity and cost us more money. The solution was clear, however: alter the color to something lighter. Despite the straightforward solution, this experience introduced me to sustainable engineering and sparked my curiosity about beneficially implementing such skills in current or future ventures.

I dove into studying sustainable engineering principles, reading *"Green engineering: Defining principles" – Results from the Sandestin conference* by Martin A. Abraham for my reading comprehension task in 10th grade. Inspired by the significance of the nine principles for minimizing resource consumption while maximizing intended output, I sought to determine if replacing the polycrystalline solar panel on my solar-powered power bank project with a smaller monocrystalline panel will result in a more efficient power bank when factoring in the price difference and charging efficiency. ~~Modeling the two systems in a photovoltaic simulation software (PVsyst),~~ I discovered that the mini monocrystalline panel results in a 30% increase in charging efficiency while keeping the same price, cheaper if we bought it in bulk, proving that it is more efficient.

Looking to deepen my knowledge of sustainable engineering and engineering generally, I joined 360 Energy, a student-led renewable energy startup. Tasked with making their water power plant in a rural village in Java more sustainable, I got the opportunity to work with experienced engineers. We developed a device to remotely monitor the power plant via Lo-Ra radio communication, saving time, money, and the environment by removing the need for weekly inspections of the hard-to-reach project site. Recalling the 7th principle of the green engineering book, I was excited to contribute towards developing a sustainable system by being aware of local geographical conditions.

From creating more efficient power banks to greatly simplifying a process, I realized the power of implementing sustainable thinking. As the world evolves to become more environmentally conscious, I believe sustainable engineering, everywhere it may apply, will become ever more valuable. I'll strive to learn more about being a sustainable engineer inside and outside the classroom through hands-on experiences so that I may partake in saving our planet.

What I like from your essay here is how you clarified your interest right away. You then include both inside and outside classroom experiences, making sure you touch on a variety of ways you’re exploring the subject of sustainable engineering. Well done!

One thing you can improve on here is by including a more relatable insight into why your findings mattered (the “so what” question). Currently, the end of each content paragraphs is a conclusion to your learning rather than an insight of why sustainable engineering is necessary. I’ve included some pointers to help you relate your experience with how you can use it to help the environment.

Best wishes!

Melinda