***TELL US ABOUT WHO YOU ARE. HOW WOULD YOUR FAMILY, FRIENDS, AND/OR MEMBERS OF YOUR COMMUNITY DESCRIBE YOU? IF POSSIBLE, PLEASE INCLUDE SOMETHING ABOUT YOURSELF THAT YOU ARE MOST PROUD OF AND WHY. (MAXIMUM 1500 CHARACTERS)***

Every night before my birthday, I would stay awake to reflect on all that has happened in my life. I would identify where I could improve and come up with new goals for the upcoming year. For my 16th birthday, I decided on a different approach to life that has evolved my purpose and became one of the best things I’ve done: A balanced life.

In school, I am widely recognized as highly ambitious and persistent. I strive to be the best by constantly challenging myself. While I might be too hard on myself, this has made me a regular top rank and even placed me first  in at times, earning me scholarships. I also value being a part of positive communities so I connect with great people in (what kind of organizations? Nonprofit? Educational? Etc) and to learn something new. People often see me as a highly active member and  a mature thinker. Hence, my peers trust me in leadership positions, as someone to mediate conflicts, and as someone to give advice.

Pursuing those endeavors consumes a lot of time and energy, I try to maintain my physical and mental health by always enjoying what I do and finding motivation.

This short essay will benefit with more specific examples of your character. What do you do after you connect with people from organizations (also, what kind of organizations?)? What are examples of your mediation and problem solving? How do you consistently find motivation to grow?

***WHAT IS IMPORTANT TO YOU? WHY? (MAXIMUM 1500 CHARACTERS)***

Why some people are more successful than others has always baffled me. Is it due to their innate talent or simply the copious support they receive? After identifying several competition winners who hailed from underachievers, I was quick to realize that this had nothing to do with talents or the support they got. I also saw that those successful would always be optimistic and driven to reach their goals, as opposed to unsuccessful people who were negligent and quick to give up. Hence, I believe that the mindset is the most prominent factor. It is the core of our motivation, decisions, and thoughts, predominantly defining who we are. If looked carefully, all the great qualities of a person are derived from their mindset, but so do the less desirable ones.

One’s mindset can truly make or break a person. Therefore, I have always tried to employ a growth mindset to surround myself with positive traits. I’ll always challenge myself to learn and grow, always looking up to those more successful than I am, willing to learn from them. This way I can stay motivated, persistent, and avoid being presumptuous. I have also tried viewing mistakes and shortcomings as the most valuable lessons. This way I don’t spend most of my time regretting but rather focusing on the things I can learn from those experiences. Through the growth mindset, I learn to view organizations as a place to learn and connect with new people. This way I can push myself to contribute the best I can, gaining the trust of my fellow team members and broadening my social network. Overall, I am satisfied with my mindsets. I hope to maintain these mindsets and perhaps refine them in the future.