**3. What would you say is your greatest talent or skill? How have you developed and demonstrated that talent over time?  (350 words)**

Beginning in my freshman year at highschool, I played volleyball. Freshman year was pretty much the first time I had ever played volleyball and to my surprise, I managed to make the cut for the varsity team. Even so, I was inexperienced and unacquainted with the techniques and the game of volleyball. For these reasons, I felt insecure and intimidated by my peers.

At first, I was not selected as a starter, but a substitute. Determined to make it as a starter and improve my skill level to make significant contributions to the team, I worked day and night on building my strength and my skills. During practice and after practice, I worked hard and diligently, paying close attention to ways I could improve. I practiced moving from home base to a hit-receive position and figured out ways to better control the ball. In my own time, I would practice bumping, setting, and spiking drills by myself against the wall until I was capable of controlling the ball no matter which direction, how strong, or how fast it was coming.

All my efforts paid off when I was able to get off the bench and become a starter and a team member that was able to contribute to the team. However, in my senior volleyball season, I suffered from an ankle injury. I was still able to push through and practice things that didn’t require too much from my ankle, such as bumping drills and setting drills. My efforts paid off as I was able to become a reliable member especially when things get difficult. When things got tough and I was not currently playing, I have heard my teammates personally ask the coach to put me back in to help my teammates with receiving. During matches, my coaches always compliment me and remind me how much they trust me in the back row before I go on to the court to play. My efforts enable me to become a starter despite my injury and become one of the coach’s most trusted back row players.

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

Art, the answer I would give to every question about my favorite subject. My first introduction to art was through my grandfather. Together, we drew and painted people, architecture, and the environment surrounding us, subjects all of which can still be seen in my own art today. Though my interest in art sparked way back as a child, walking through halls of century-old pieces to modern contemporary pieces, my passion to study and practice this further in university began when I participated in internships and summer camps.

My journey started when I worked at SKITCHEN, a local cast iron cookware company, as a product design intern. It was my first experience working, and I truly enjoyed every part of the process. From this internship, I learned how to develop a product concept based on the customer research and manufacturing limitations. At this point in time, I thought I wanted to become a product designer.

The next month, I participated in a summer camp for graphic design and illustration. I learned about ways to harmoniously combine type and imagery together as well as learning how to use Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Indesign, and Adobe Illustrator to edit photos, create illustrations, and design posters and zines. I came to every single class really eager to learn and to practice, making me sad when it ended as I loved it so much. Although I enjoyed product design very much as well, I felt more intrigued by graphic design. When designing, I felt a great sense of joy and willingness to experiment with composition, type, shapes, lines, and color, often resulting in me losing track of time.

In the next few months following the summer camp, I joined fall and winter academies on experimental drawing to learn new things such as linoleum printing. The following year, I joined another summer camp, this time on portfolio development. In all these courses, I was able to explore and discover new ways to approach my art as well as my art style, which is often minimal and detailed. Yet through all these discoveries, I found my true passion in the field of design. I now use these skills to help my school by becoming the leader of the set and design team, and the lead designer of the yearbook.

Notes:

I suggest concluding with showing what art has taught you that you can relate in daily life as well as where you see yourself going with your passion and interest in art (university and beyond). You can also insert some sentimental reflection on going back to your story with your grandfather. Try to make art not only about the art itself, but relate it to the bigger meaning in your life.

All the best!