**A hallmark of the Columbia experience is being able to learn and thrive in an equitable and inclusive community with a wide range of perspectives. Tell us about an aspect of your own perspective, viewpoint or lived experience that is important to you, and describe how it has shaped the way you would learn from and contribute to Columbia’s diverse and collaborative community. (200 words or fewer)\***

The self-fulfilment I felt after becoming the secretary of the Leo Club, a youth organization to develop leadership by participating in community service activities, led me to join a buddy tutor program. Meeting weekly, I tutored students in chemistry, mathematics and biology. I assisted them with upcoming exams and homework, sharing potential test questions and providing my personal study notes.

These activities have helped me realize that life is all about giving than receiving. Whether it be through donating to a charity, sharing knowledge, or protecting the environment by picking up rubbish.

I hope to discover similar opportunities at Columbia through Columbia Community Service, where I can get involved with their Common Denominator as part of their virtual math tutor or SNACK\* as part of their SNACK\* Snacktivities Program Volunteer.

Furthermore, I'd like to set up a buddy to buddy tutoring program for middle school children at Common Denominator. To make sure students genuinely understand what has already been taught to them, they would teach each other their previously acquired knowledge under the student volunteer’s supervision.

Hi Victoria,

Thank you for your essay. You have a strong foundation for your essay – volunteer work and tutoring are your main interests and you would like be involved in these activities during your time in Columbia. You can strengthen this essay by including more of what you learned in these activities specifically (how students are challenged in school, social issues with charities, etc). Another way you can strengthen your essay is to describe how your background as an Indonesian affects your perspective. Culture affects identity and identity affects goals. If this is something you resonate with, lean into it in this essay to give you an edge.

C.G.