**Describe the most significant challenge you have faced and the steps you have taken to overcome this challenge. How has this challenge affected your academic achievement? (350 words)**

I knew I did something wrong when almost everybody in my math class gets 6s and 7s. I was  challenged by the fact that the topic itself was understandable, and fairly easy to do, yet I only got 5 out of 7. I checked the comments to determine what I did wrong, but the comment was always the same, “Revise More!”.

The problem with that is, I don’t know where to start. A lot of peers recommended me to get a private tutor, but I have had ad experiences with private tutors in the past and often they didn’t give me a significant impact. I was ashamed and stressed that I couldn’t reach above a 5 in the math subject. If this pattern continues, then the opportunity for me to major in engineering is in jeopardy.

When I arrived home that day, I googled the questions, and I found the working out online. I observed how the author did it. I found out that the methods I used were correct, but I input the wrong plus or minus signs, and often use “shortcuts” that lead to answers. All of the errors could be avoided if I practiced more questions on the topic, and started to utilize past papers.

From that point on, I started a routine of studying a minimum of an hour every Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. This studying schedule is not only focused for math, but also for other subjects as well. Not only that, I expanded my revision materials to include past IB test papers, and questions from the textbook. Though at first it was a hassle, I eventually got used to the routine and made it my productive habit.

The impact of this routine has been positive not only for my academic achievements, but also myself. I became more disciplined, and more aware of my use of time. I also learned the value of time, and how an extra hour is beneficial for my studies and discipline.

On my last math test, I got a 7.

Hi I Nyoman,

Thank you for your submission. You have a great lesson in this essay: consistency leads to habit and hard work leads to results. I think you can strengthen this essay by adding more meaning to the grade. Is it just a grade or is it a reflection of how you/others think of yourself? Emphasize that this grade may make or break your dreams of being an engineer and what being that means to you. I will also suggest that you add how you felt after getting the 7. Did you decide to raise the bar for yourself and work harder? Did you realize this is what you will have to maintain to succeed? The higher the stakes you put, the better the payoff will be when you get the results.

C.G.