**NUS Essays**

1. Tell us something you have done outside your school curriculum to prepare yourself for your chosen degree course(s). For example, did you work in a relevant part time job or do you take an online course? (550 characters)

I joined a biology quiz competition at Padjajaran University called Biology Challenge and managed to reach the semifinals. I am also reading a book by Siddhartha Mukherjee, called "The Song of The Cell". The book talks about his experiences meeting scientists and patients around the world and learning new things about cells. One of the book's most interesting parts was when he talked about Emily Whitehead who suffered from leukemia and was healed by using her extracted T cells that were grown and modified before being inserted back into her.

1. Tell us about a time when you failed to do something on your first try, but succeeded on subsequent attempts. How did you learn from your initial failure, change your approach, so that you eventually succeeded? (550 characters)

One time, I had to prepare for my biology test on anabolism, catabolism, and metabolism. Since there were several cycles in that chapter, I tried to cram all of the information, but I didn't really achieve the desired results. Months later, I had to learn the cycles again for my finals, but I wanted to get better results. I remember that my teacher asked us to turn the cycles into song lyrics and I decided to use that method. On the exam, I was able to do the questions about that chapter very confidently.

1. Tell us about something that is meaningful to you, and why. (550 characters)

Out of all my items, I cherish my earphones the most. They are meaningful to me because I received them as a gift from my friends on my seventeenth birthday. As someone who always brings earphones everywhere, I know that my friends had put a lot of thought into the gift. They also gave me one of the highest quality earphones because they knew that I was always listening to music. My earphones are a constant reminder of our friendship, and I look forward to sharing more meaningful memories with my friends.

1. What is your proudest achievement? How does it display your commitment and how you have been enterprising? Please also explain how it exemplifies some of the five NUS values of Innovation, Resilience, Excellence, Respect and Integrity. (1100 characters)

My proudest achievement was when my school’s choir, Smukiez Choir, won the gold medal at the PENABUR International Choir Festival 2022. We knew that winning it would not be easy as this was the most prestigious choir competition for our school, so we practiced rigorously and sang our hearts out in each recording session for about a year. As the competition was held during the pandemic, we had to record videos as well. Although we’d never done video recordings, we wanted to do our best. Thus, we utilized a green screen to make a creative music video. During one of our audio recordings, I caught a horrible flu and wasn't able to sing the high and long notes. Even though it was upsetting, I didn’t dwell on my failure and focused on getting better. Finally, I successfully sang all of the notes in the next session. We’re aware that not only did we give our best, but the audio team and the staff helped us tremendously as well. Thus, we never slacked off during each practice to respect everyone’s time.

We showed integrity by making sure we did not break any of the competition rules.

1. Is there anything else about yourself which you want us to know? (550 characters)

Teaching opportunity (Physics) (make it sort of a community service)

I was given the opportunity to teach Physics to a few of my classmates who were struggling with their academic scores in that subject. My homeroom teacher entrusted me to become the study group leader and mentor because she saw that I am a hardworking person and passionate for helping others. She also believes that my academic results are great and that I will be able to balance between teaching, studying, and other activities. I took the opportunity because I wanted to help my peers and gain new experiences.

Hi Fel,

I’ve rearranged some of your contents to avoid redundancy and improve coherence. To make your answers more effective, please read the specific comments I’ve left on the parts you should elaborate on (especially Q1 and Q2).

Best of luck!

Melinda