**Explain, in detail, an experience you've had in the past 3 to 4 years related to your first-choice major. This can be an experience from an extracurricular activity, in a class you’ve taken, or through something else. 150 max**

***Draft 1***

As a beginner in competitive programming, simple sort and string matching algorithms were foreign to me. Because of the gap in knowledge, I’d come up with irregular solutions to problems, only to be met with failure. But Vale, my mentor in Kokocoder Club, inspired me to keep persevering.

Whenever I felt puzzled by one of the coding problems, he’d always tell me, “Just think of any solution and try it. You can always optimize it later.”

Every weekend, as I went through codeforces problems, he’d write multiple program solutions to any one problem, writing ridiculous solutions that surprisingly worked to encourage more flexibility and open-mindedness in solving problems. His outlook in approaching problems taught me to be more daring and think differently when coding, and thus I was able to improve technically and mentally. I am keen to continue my passion for problem-solving through studying Computer Science at UIUC.

**Describe your personal/or career goals after graduating from UIUC and how your selected first-choice major will help you achieve them. 150 max**

***Draft 1***

My ultimate goal is to create games, using their power not only as a means of entertainment but also to educate the younger generation, raise awareness on issues, and communicate messages across cultures. I want to do that by engaging in game development and research.

Through the CS major, not only will I learn new programming techniques, I’ll also learn about the effective implementation of graphics behind games. Learning graphic rendering topics like “Ray Tracing” and design mechanics will promote the holistic development of my skills and allow me to contribute to both the functional and artistic aspects of games. The major also allows me connections to organizations and like-minded people with whom I can collaborate. I hope to bring more positive recognition to gaming and I believe pursuing this major will provide me the expertise to do so and accomplish my goal in the industry.