TELL US ABOUT WHO YOU ARE. HOW WOULD YOUR FAMILY, FRIENDS, AND/OR MEMBERS OF YOUR COMMUNITY DESCRIBE YOU? IF POSSIBLE, PLEASE INCLUDE SOMETHING ABOUT YOURSELF THAT YOU ARE MOST PROUD OF AND WHY. (MAXIMUM 1500 CHARACTERS)

I was always asked what I wanted to be when I grew up. Many people don’t say the same answer as what they gave in the past. However, my answer has always stayed the same—I want to be a scientist.

From an early age I was curious about everything about the natural world. My parents would often say that I had too many questions. When my friends complained about having science lab practicals, I’d look forward to them. It was the little things like this which caused the people around me to notice my passion for life sciences.

Even though I was unable to take art at school, I continued to improve while drawing at home. While I allocated a lot of time to drawing, I was also managing to do well academically which impressed my peers.

I am most proud of converting the pressure on me to what I consider one of my strongest points, my discipline and perseverance. Since the future will hold more trials, I believe this mindset will continue to help me through tough times where I feel like surrendering.

Do you have other parts about yourself to add that is not about studying/academics/subjects? A cause that you are passionate about or an organization that you have contributed to? This is to round out this short essay.

WHAT IS IMPORTANT TO YOU? WHY? (MAXIMUM 1500 CHARACTERS

I remember a girl in my school who was heavily criticized as the yearbook leader for an underwhelming design. The high stakes discouraged me from being a leader. However, I realized I had to face this fear as I grew. I volunteered as a PIC for an event in the student council which made me experience being in the face of hardship and understand what it means to have courage. It is allowing yourself to try because you’ll never know your true potential until you test your limits.

My courage led me to join activities and leadership roles I'm involved in now. Instead of doing things passively, I became more outspoken. Instead of limiting my passions because of temporary dread, bravery pushed me to my limits. Through these experiences I have become a different person. Without this tenacity, I wouldn’t have been able to develop my character, interests, or skills.

Was there a transition between when you were afraid and when you started being brave? What were some hardships that you experienced and *how* did you use this to your advantage? Specify these instances so your progress seems more tangible.