**(Personal Statement)**

**Describe the highlights of your most outstanding achievements /contributions/ attributions (Max 300 words)**

I’ve always loved teaching young children, so when I was given a research paper assignment in grade 11 I decided to write about the lack of education for special needs children in Indonesia. The process of writing made me desire to give this issue a tangible help. I decided to take the first step by making a project called This Ability, which is not only aimed to collect money but also empower those children. I sell sweaters that have a compilation of the children’s own handwriting of the sentence “I am more than my limitations” in Indonesian language printed on the back. When explaining this project to special needs schools through phone calls, most respondents were out of reach or unwilling. I kept trying until SLB Pangudi Luhur invited me to meet their principal. The idea was approved, and I spent time with the children to make the design. After searching for suppliers, negotiating prices, and making promotions, we successfully generated more than 6 million IDR. I dedicated all profits from this fundraising for them. Since this project was not overseen by teachers, I learned about integrity and self accountability.

I participated in a nation-wide highschool business competition from Prasetya Mulya University, where we created an ideal virtual dressing room for the clothing industry, as the theme is about pitching businesses post-pandemic. My team and I reached out to businesses in this market and landed an interview with the European representative of a body measurement software company. This competition allowed me to apply theories on making financial statements and developing a marketing strategy. I was criticized by mentors, had to rethink my business plans along the way, discussed convoluted numbers, and answered critical questions from judges. This not only increased my passion for business, but also prepared my character to handle the hardships that come with it. Other than learning about the business plan, this experience developed my ability to communicate those plans to the judges or “investors”.

Hi Karen!

This question is asking for your *most outstanding* achievement, so you want to focus on just one experience here. Based on the impact of these two activities, I suggest you elaborate on the This Ability project. If ‘integrity’ and ‘self-accountability’ are the traits you want to highlight here, demonstrate them throughout the essay rather than telling us at the end.

Here is a structure you can follow:

* Why This Ability? Right now, I don’t see the connection between your research paper assignment and your project. Try to explain your thought process here.
* Why did you decide to involve the children in the design process? What did you want to achieve through doing this?
* Selling the sweater
* The aftermath: what did the IDR 6 mio go towards?
* Conclusion: Why is this your most outstanding achievement? What real impacts did you have on the disabled community, both through the funds you raised and through your interactions with them? How do you plan to continue this impact?

**What would you say is your greatest talent or skill? How have you developed and demonstrated that talent over time? (max 50 words)**

I joined drama classes in high school and was captivated by the collaborative process of making a performance. This interest turned into a passion when I chose to dedicate my weekends to acting school. My sense of empathy and outspokenness was enhanced through this experience. I was selected as the director of the musical for Springfield’s 25th Anniversary and was responsible for the audition princess and 6 months of rehearsals. When I interpreted the script into a live performance by coordinating stage blockings and coaching the cast members on expressions and emotions, I found myself really enjoying the job. I also built my interpersonal skills by giving moral encouragement to the casts to delve into their character.

**What have you done to make your school or your community a better place? (max 50 words)**

The pandemic caused many of my friends to feel isolated and unmotivated. Many events were canceled, and the school spirit was lost. A teacher told me that in grade 10 it is a tradition to have a farewell/thanksgiving party for the entire batch. He appointed me to be the head of the committee of this event and I said yes. I took the initiative to reach out to other students and form departments. I participated in meetings where we discuss the design and rundown. Through this, the bond between students was rekindled. I execute vision into reality by contacting and negotiating with outside suppliers regarding our merchandise. Although the event has to be done online, my team and I don’t limit our creativity. We build a virtual Monopoly-Fantasy themed event. This creates a meaningful memory in the year where we thought we would have none of.