**Most students choose their intended major or area of study based on a passion or inspiration that’s developed over time – what passion or inspiration led you to choose this area of study?**

**(300 word maximum)\***

My interest in computer science first sparked when I was eight years old. As part of my birthday gift, I received an Apple phone where I was introduced to Siri. Fascinated by its conversational abilities, I’d interact with it every day after school. It wasn’t until middle school that I learned it was software and programs that powered Siri. Since then, I’ve taken rigorous courses like web and game development in and outside of school and pursued independent studies, delving deeper into programming.

One day, wanting me to engage more with the community, my mom brought me to a local orphanage where I met Fashul, a boy with Cerebral Palsy. As I spent my summer break helping out at the orphanage, I realized the difficulties Fashul experienced daily. While the others would sometimes play football outside, he would stay indoors, having no choice but to just sit and watch. I saw this as an opportunity to both help Fashul and apply the programming skills I’d cultivated over the years. Inspired by Siri, I developed a voice-activated 2-D video game using Unity for him to enjoy despite his disability.

Seeing the mirth in Fashul and the kids as they spoke commands to their character, navigate levels, and defeat enemies made me feel grateful for how impactful this simple game was. It was clear to me how computer science possesses revolutionary power to transform people’s lives.

Majoring in computer science will allow me to continue to explore my interest in game development and its application of AI at a collegiate level. As I pursue my studies at CMU, I hope to develop more games, using their power not only as a means of entertainment for users but also to raise awareness on social issues, communicate messages and cultures, educate the younger generation, and most importantly help others like Fashul.

Hi Joe! What a compelling story you have there. You’re able to pinpoint the first time you became fascinated by AI, and how it prompted you to do the same for Fashul. That being said, there are 2 things I’d suggest to make your essay even more powerful and heartwarming: a richer lexical resource and a more elaborate ending.

For the literary device and lexical resource, it is a good idea to **restructure your introduction** to have a visible **hook** to capture the audience’s interest instantly. See below for a sample opening:

"Hi Joe… "What can I help you with today?" Seeing that the phone spoke back left me in wide-eyed wonderment. How could she know my name? ….."

(Then you can highlight the curiosity of a young boy and how this prompted you to interact with Siri regularly after school.)

For the **ending**, it’s a good idea to mention how CMU can help you accomplish your goal in this specific field. Is there a specific class that’s offered at CMU? Perhaps a professor from whom you'd like to learn?

Best of luck!

Melinda