***Think about an academic subject that inspires you. Describe how you have furthered this interest inside and/or outside of the classroom. (350 words)***

I've never liked learning languages. Although I speak three languages—English, Indonesian, and Mandarin—I have always had trouble remembering words or crafting lovely sentences. However, with computer languages, this isn't the case. Me and computers, we seem to have a similar predilection for straightforward, methodical, literal language. As a result, I thoroughly enjoyed learning computer languages and sometimes preferred them over speaking with people.

I still remember the first time my class was tasked to code an HTML website. The significant quantity of work felt overwhelming to the entire class, but I managed to find joy in it. I thought of programming as a way to converse with computers. I felt as though I was speaking to them every time I ran a line of code since they always answered with an error that invited me to fix it. I also saw it as a game: to produce a usable product while figuring out the mysteries behind the line of code's faults.

After some time conversing with them, I began to discover their limitless potential as efficient and indefatigable machines capable of processing information much faster than humans. Just that their capabilities are limited to the imagination and skills of the programmer. I saw this as a viable opportunity to truly make something big that would impact the whole world. Hence, I felt inspired to study programming to nurture those computers into something capable of changing the world for the better.

So, I started studying CSS and JavaScript to supplement my basic knowledge of HTML while developing some websites along the way. CSS allows a more attractive, fluid, and interactive web. Meanwhile, JavaScript unlocked my capabilities to code sophisticated interactions between website elements. Moving on, I started to learn about databases alongside the basics of SQL to manage and manipulate data.

I then implemented my studies to help make a small database for my parent’s architectural firm—making it easier for data retrieval through queries. Lastly, I got interested in learning Python. Hence, I took online courses and attended a workshop to understand its fundamentals. The more I learnt them, the more they grew on me. I intend to continue learning computer languages to create something that will significantly benefit society.

Hi Samuel:

I love how you open the essay touching on languages. Your second paragraph is also a great depiction of how you discovered joy in programming in class.

In the third paragraph, I suggest summarizing the current third and fourth paragraphs. Show what you think about computers and what you’ve done in pursuit of more knowledge (you can just briefly mention CSS, JavaScript, SQL).

In the fourth paragraph, I suggest focusing on the story of how you applied it outside of class (i.e. in your parents’ architectural firm or another experience you find noteworthy). What this does is it shows how you have experienced real-life application of your interest and hopefully have an idea of what you can do with your skills in the future.

In the concluding paragraph, I understand you are planning to ‘create something that will significantly benefit society’. Do you have an idea of what that might entail? What kind of industry or field are you looking to apply your skills in? What problem are you concerned about that you think can benefit from your skills? Don’t be afraid to elaborate your future plans here.

All the best!