**Columbia**

List the titles of the books, essays, poetry, short stories or plays you read outside of academic courses that you enjoyed most during secondary/high school. (75 words or fewer)\*

* Rich Dad Poor Dad by Robert Kiyosaki
* The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People by Stephen Covey
* The 48 Laws of Power by Robert Greene
* The Fault in Our Stars by John Green
* Nizar Qabbani’s Poems
* The Time Machine by H.G Wells
* Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury
* The Monkey’s Paw by W.W. Jacobs
* A Doll’s House by Henrik Ibsen

We’re interested in learning about some of the ways that you explore your interests. List some resources and outlets you enjoy, including but not limited to websites, publications, journals, podcasts, social media accounts, lectures, museums, movies, music, or other content with which you regularly engage. (125 words or fewer)\*

TED Talks

* Inside the mind of a master procrastinator (Tim Urban)
* Our campaign to ban plastic bags in Bali (Melati and Isabel Wijsen)
* The danger of a single story (Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie)
* Overcoming hopelessness (Nick Vujicic)

Podcasts

* The Joe Rogan Experience
* Podcast Raditya Dika

Social Media Accounts

* Yes Theory
* Marques Brownlee
* Mark Wiens
* About to Eat
* Jubilee
* Nessie Judge

News

* Bloomberg
* Reuters
* Vox
* The Economist

Movies/TV

* Midnight in Paris
* Suits
* Brooklyn Nine-Nine
* Interstellar
* Start-Up
* Haikyuu
* The Bucket List
* Pursuit of Happiness

Music

* Bruno Major
* Sia
* Anthony Lazaro
* Yiruma
* NIKI
* Coldplay

**A hallmark of the Columbia experience is being able to learn and thrive in an equitable and inclusive community with a wide range of perspectives. Tell us about an aspect of your own perspective, viewpoint, or lived experience that is important to you, and describe how it has shaped the way you would learn from and contribute to Columbia’s diverse and collaborative community. (200 words or fewer)\***

I serve as the Head of Curriculum of GenDigital Academy, an NGO that gives me the opportunity to teach digital literacy to children of various ages from various schools all over Indonesia. In one particular instance, we taught a group of elementary students aged 7-13 from a church community.

Through seeing firsthand my students’ constant efforts and subsequent improvement in coding ability, I didn’t expect to learn about the importance of inquisitiveness in our lives. Somewhere along the way, we lose that child-like curiosity and excitement to learn new things and discover new places, just because we fear failure. If we can relearn this curiosity, it may just lead us to greater self-actualization. That curiosity helped me become more open to unfamiliar experiences such as taking leadership roles, learning music, and meeting new people. If we can relearn to be curious like a child, it may lead us to innovation and valuable knowledge in order to reach unimaginable levels of growth.

At Columbia, I aim to empower my peers to be a learner and teacher at the same time, giving them a platform to share their knowledge, highlighting the success we can achieve through learning from others.

**Why are you interested in attending Columbia University? We encourage you to consider the aspect(s) that you find unique and compelling about Columbia. (200 words or fewer)\***

When I visited New York City last year, the highlight of the trip was seeing Columbia University in its glory on the Upper West Side of Manhattan. Exiting the 116 Street stop, walking onto campus, and seeing the beautiful Low Memorial Library surrounded by the vibrant and buzzing life of New York City every day affirmed my dream to one day study at Columbia.

As I explored Columbia online, I’m glad to discover that I can continue engaging in opportunities to volunteer with my peers to bridge the inequality in our communities. Columbia’s student organizations like Red Cross Club will help me continue serving in health and education, causes I’ve advocated for since high school. In addition, I can also diversify my experience by making new friends and knowing new cultures from the International Club.

Next to all the fun, the interdisciplinary opportunities that Columbia College offers for Data Science help me better understand further its real-life application. For example, the Financial and Business Analytics Research Center opens doors to analyzing consumers and markets through data, preparing me to one day start my own business. Hence, Columbia’s state-of-the-art education and diverse community make it the perfect fit for me.

**For applicants to Columbia College, please tell us what from your current and past experiences (either academic or personal) attracts you specifically to the areas of study that you previously noted in the application. (200 words or fewer)\***

From sorting data using Microsoft Excel’s formulas to taking Computer Science as a high-school elective, I love that Data Science constantly amazes me with its uniqueness of investigating methods to uncover helpful insights hidden in data such as consumer habits for marketing or detecting spam/malware. At Columbia University, I want to explore how communities can become more affluent through data-driven predictions and decision-making.

Using my phone’s facial recognition system or conversational AIs like Alexa to ease my daily processes has made me curious about analyzing data through machine learning. To explore further the real-life application of data science, I researched and wrote 4,000 words comparing the performance of Naive Bayes and Decision Tree machine-learning algorithms in predicting students' academic performance for my IB extended essay.

While researching, completing Andrew Ng’s *Machine Learning* course was very insightful as it explores the use of data mining and machine learning to predict future output. I found this interesting as it showed me how machine learning could help improve user experience by analyzing their actions. This would help my food blog predict suitable recipe recommendations. Inspired by its capabilities, I aspire to pursue data science and related fields in university.

Notes: I think this is good to go.

**In Columbia’s admissions process, we value who you are as a unique individual, distinct from your goals and achievements. In the last words of this writing supplement, we would like you to reflect on a source of happiness. Help us get to know you further by describing the first thing that comes to mind when you consider what simply brings you joy. (35 words or fewer)\***

Food is something that brings me joy, acting as a stress reliever in times of adversity. Trying new recipes or tasting new cuisines are my favorite, knowing flavors can be combined in endless possibilities.

**Harvard**

[**https://blog.prepscholar.com/harvard-essay-prompt-examples**](https://blog.prepscholar.com/harvard-essay-prompt-examples)

**Your intellectual life may extend beyond the academic requirements of your particular school. Please use the space below to list additional intellectual activities that you have not mentioned or detailed elsewhere in your application. These could include but are not limited to, supervised or self-directed projects not done as school work, training experiences, online courses not run by your school, or summer academic or research programs not described elsewhere. (150 words)**

* Summer program salatiga

**Please briefly elaborate on one of your extracurricular activities or work experiences. (50-150 words)**

Spreading digital literacy awareness is meaningful for me, considering how 40% of the Indonesian population is digitally illiterate, even though 70% is connected to the Internet. The inability to navigate through social media safely, use computers, and perform basic digital tasks will limit the future generation to thrive in the approaching digital age. With GenDigital Academy, we broke the national record for the biggest digital literacy teaching session in Indonesia. Not only one community, but I hope I can spread digital literacy to many more. Expand on action

**The mission of Harvard College is to educate our students to be citizens and citizen-leaders for society. What would you do to contribute to the lives of your classmates in advancing this mission? (550 words)**

I’m the President of Misi Gizi, a CAS Project to organize a food bank for more than 650 people. The biggest challenge was being forced to lead a big group of 60 people in ten divisions remotely due to the pandemic. The whole cohort couldn’t meet in person until the actual day of our service. Not being able to directly meet each other hampered the working ability of the whole organization. Members were demotivated since there wasn’t a sense of togetherness; It was hard to supervise each student's work; Disagreements between peers became more burdensome as issues couldn’t be resolved quickly. As a result, tasks were completed longer, and the whole project was harder to accomplish.

First, I tried to make the online working environment more effective through the use of collaborative apps like Google Docs, Sheets, and Meet. However, it was still hard to get everybody online since there was nothing pushing them to do so. So, then I tried to improve motivation by encouraging each head to divide the workload among their members to give each additional responsibility. In the beginning, work was still slow, but as their responsibility grew over time, each member’s sense of pride made them put in more effort in completing their tasks to showcase their competency, and it successfully boosted our output. I understood how disagreements can damage solidarity in the organization, but also how they can lead to growth. Even though slight disagreements may occur, I encouraged members to share inputs with their leaders. This sparked up valuable discussions that lead to innovative ideas, which helped me strategize the project’s direction.

Through this experience, I realized the true extent of my leadership capabilities. Every leadership experience has its own difficulties, especially when working with new groups of people. It is up to a leader to adjust their leadership style, which I did by putting more trust in my team members rather than leading autocratically. The trust in my leadership inspired me to change from being a passive person to one with a burning desire to lead and make an impact on others.

Hi Varick:

I understand that you want to show your previous leadership experience, but I believe the prompt asks what you would do in Harvard College (your plan moving forward).

I would shorten this story by half and spend the next half on what you would contribute to your classmates in Harvard College. For example, knowing what you’ve learned re: leadership, how will you influence your classmates in group projects? Are there any initiatives you can think of to inspire the mission? It can be simple actions or behaviors that you think will positively influence others or bigger projects.

All the best!