**1. Write a short thank-you note to someone you have not yet thanked and would like to acknowledge. (*We encourage you to share this note with that person, if possible, and reflect on the experience!)* (150-200 words)**

**Draft 5**

Dear Mr. Richard,

I remember when you first approached me in Grade 7 and offered me a role to help you build the school’s Advanced Math Club. I was stepping into unfamiliar territory as a club Mentor and Vice President, but I was excited by the challenge of guiding my juniors to solve difficult math problems, such as combinatorics, probability, and number theories.

You showed me the purpose of helping my peers to excel in Math, which leads to a positive impact on their learning growth. I was hesitant about the techniques used to explain complex problems because I had doubts on whether it was understandable. However, you always encouraged me to think and come up with ways that are more applicable to our daily lives like connecting probability theory to slot machines. I learned about creative problem-solving and becoming more resilient and resourceful in tackling roadblocks, applying them to any problems I encountered like the fundraisers I organized, or the events I led as student council president.

**As I wrap up my high school years, I'll make sure to carry this valuable mindset to college and later, to my professional career. For that, I would like to thank you.**

**2. How will you explore the community at Penn? Consider how Penn will help shape your perspective and identity, and how your identity and perspective will help shape Penn. (150-200 words)**

**Draft 6**

A photo’s ability to freeze a moment or feeling in time is why I became passionate about photography. I realized that photography is more than clicking the shutter release button; it’s about preserving memories, developed through years of practice. Penn Lens Club will shape my perspective in creating an open space for both appreciators of photography and photographers to appreciate captured moments, not only as something more than just pictures but also, as an expression of memories.

Aside from photography, I am excited to get involved with the Best Buddies program at UPenn. I’m excited to be matched with adults in the Philadelphia community with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) and strive to include them as part of our society. I have a younger cousin with IDD, and growing up with her, I saw the struggles she had to face, especially the stereotypical judgments set towards her just because of the existence of an extra chromosome. I’ve grown to believe in the importance of inclusivity, as I hope someday the social, physical, and economic isolation of people with IDD will end. Hence, I want to use my passion and personal experience in this field to help raise awareness and strive for more inclusivity for IDD individuals.

**3. Considering the specific** [**undergraduate school**](https://admissions.upenn.edu/exploring-academics-at-penn) **you have selected, describe how you intend to explore your academic and intellectual interests at the University of Pennsylvania. (150-200 words)**

**Draft 8**

Through the local daily news, I have seen firsthand the struggles of Indonesia’s MSMEs to raise capital, especially during the pandemic. This prompted my interest to help MSME owners grow their businesses through leveraging my knowledge of investments and capital financing. I intend to gain experience in venture capital (VC) through exploring the *Pear Fellows* program. Learning VC requires a lot of quick iterative cycles and I believe that the program’s mentoring can give me exposure to and feedback on developing negotiation abilities, keen business judgment, and evaluating companies and industry trends.

In addition to Pear Fellows, I intend to explore my academic interests in taking a concentration in finance. I look forward to taking classes like *Financial Derivatives (FNCE 2170 and 7170)* and *Venture Capital and Finance of Innovation (FNCE 2500),* both of which directly combine to my interest in helping MSMEs. I believe these courses can serve as building blocks to understand the stages in VC investing with a focus on the valuation tools like the VC method, and comparable analysis used in the VC industry.

I’ve also been studying fundamental-driven approaches in investing by reading books like The Intelligent Investor, The Little Book of Common Investing, and A Random Walk Down Wall Street. Hence, I intend to explore my intellectual interests in Wharton’s Investment and Trading Group to widen my understanding of both short-term and long-term investing strategies.