**Prompt 4 - Describe how you have taken advantage of a significant educational opportunity or worked to overcome an educational barrier you have faced.**

Ever since I took a computer science class in school, I fell in love with it. It was mind blowing to learn that the fancy mobile apps in my smartphone and the games that I played on my computer and PS4 were a result of lines of codes. Not only that, these codes would also result in something that made our lives more convenient and entertaining. This motivates me to want to be a part of these lines of code makers.

The problem, however, is that the school curriculum only teaches the fundamentals to computer science. Eager to learn more, I researched for different ways so that I could increase my knowledge and gain experience in programming.

After ample research, I found out that there are some companies in Jakarta that accept high school students as programmer-interns. Therefore, I applied for one, prepared the programming-type interview that’s usually tested for this kind of position, and, fortunately, got accepted to Multi Graha Mas as an IT intern. Here is where I feel like the basics learned in school make sense because I can actually see the outcome of my programming efforts put to use. With my basic knowledge as a student, I assisted in the making and managing of the database in the company using SQL. In addition, I also helped out with setting up computers with the help of my peers.

Although the internship was helpful for me to gain experience, I thought that there was a part of computer science I hardly touched which was data science. I thought that knowing the different parts of a field may help me gain more understanding of the field. So I took a three weekend Data Science Bootcamp program. I learnt the basics of data science there and created a project on bank marketing strategy.

There is a saying that goes, “opportunity never knock twice” so I am glad that I took the opportunities to learn and experience different parts of computer science. It gave me the advantage over most people due to the work experience. In addition, I learnt that by being proactive and resourceful could increase my chance of getting opportunities to enhance my learning.