Karen

1. **Tell us something you have done outside your school curriculum to prepare yourself for your chosen degree course(s). For example, did you work in a relevant part-time job, or did you take an online course? (550 characters)**

I participated in a business plan competition where we ideated a virtual try on for the clothing retail industry. This experience allowed me to utilise the knowledge taught in classes like making financial statements and a marketing strategy. After interviewing an executive in a software company, I learned something new about outsourcing resources and business expansion. I also joined an accounting competition, which requires extra hours after school to practise for. This exposed me to concepts not taught in class like recording inventories with FOB shipping point and destination.

1. **Tell us about a time when you failed to do something on your first try, but succeeded on subsequent attempts. How did you learn from your initial failure, change your approach, so that you eventually succeeded? (550 characters)**

During the science fair in grade 7, my poor speaking skills prevented the information that has been effortfully analysed to be conveyed well to the audience. I also notice that I shut my ideas down when discussing because I fear disagreements. This made me realise the cruciality of public speaking skills. I pushed myself to earn this skill by signing up for the school’s debate club. The activities we had were really intimidating for me and I had thoughts of backing out. However, I altered my mindset from being afraid of getting judged by others to embracing my weakness and showing my eagerness to learn. I spent extra hours after school to prepare for model United Nations competitions, which taught me to formulate speeches in a short amount of time, express disagreements in a diplomatic manner, and speak with more clarity. After my fourth competition, I finally gained confidence when doing public speaking. I succeed in achieving awards, becoming MC in events, and expressing my ideas in teamworks.

1. **Tell us about something that is meaningful to you, and why. (550 characters)**

Confident humility is meaningful to me. I believe it’s the driving force of my high performance inside and outside the classroom. As I was interested to learn what happens beyond the operations of a company, I signed up for A level Economics without having the basic knowledge from IGCSE. The lectures were overwhelming for me. But I always had optimism that I will eventually understand. This optimism grew from simply having courage to keep trying, which has proven successful in past experiences from solving a math question to planning school events. I’m confident with my capability to learn, but also aware of my knowledge gap. Which motivates me to self study, ask questions and seek for more resources. I realized that this self doubt pushes me to prove myself.

1. **What is your proudest achievement? How does it display your commitment and how you have been enterprising? Please also explain how it exemplifies some of the five NUS values of Innovation, Resilience, Excellence, Respect, and Integrity. (1100 characters)**

In grade 11, I made a research paper about the lack of education for children with special needs in Indonesia. It made me aware that this is a very complex challenge which couldn’t be tackled independently, however I have a desire to do something more than reading articles and journals about it. So I decided to make a tangible first step, which became my passion project called “This Ability”. This project is a fundraising that is not only aimed to collect money, but also empower children with special needs.

I chose to sell something simple and affordable and planned an innovative design for it. The final product is a sweater with a compilation of the children’s handwriting “Aku lebih dari keterbatasanku”, meaning “I am more than my limitations” digitalised and printed on the back. To find the children who will make this design, I researched special needs schools online.

When trying to explain this project through phone calls, most respondents are out of reach. Those who answered said they will contact me back, but never did. I kept trying and trying until SLB Pangudi Luhur invited me to meet their principal. The idea was approved and I spent time with the children and teachers to make the design. The teacher told me that some of the children have their school fees unpaid due to financial struggles. So I dedicated all profits from this fundraising for them. Then, I searched for suppliers, negotiated prices, and promoted this fundraising through social media and school announcements. We successfully generated more than 6 million IDR in revenue.

Personally, what I learn most is being reliable. Because this project was not overseen by teachers; there are no deadlines and no one to keep me accountable but myself. I would definitely take any opportunity to build upon this project in the future and hope that I can use my business skills to help at an even larger scale.

1. **Is there anything else about yourself which you want us to know? (550 characters)**

While I dedicate myself to achieving high academic results, I also like to express my other top two passions: performing arts and early childhood education. I have directed multiple plays for school and been involved in short movie productions outside of school, which helps enhance my creativity, coordination, and leadership skills. During family gatherings, I’m the one who entertains the little cousins. I find joy in being around them. I also take care of young children at church. I consider it to be my mission to be part of improving the education of children and I am sure that studying at NUS will prepare me with the knowledge and values to achieve it.