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 dressing room for the clothing retail industry. This experience allowed me to apply the knowledge taught in classes like making financial statements and a marketing strategy. I get the experience of being criticized by mentors, having to rethink my business plans along the way, discussing complicated numbers with the group until it makes sense, and answering critical questions from judges. I think this not only increases my enjoyment in learning business, but also prepares my character to handle tough situations relating to it.

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 me from putting my thoughts into words. I shut my ideas down because I fear disagreement. This made me realise the cruciality of public speaking skills, which led me to sign up for the school’s debate club. The activities we had were really intimidating and I had thoughts of backing out. However, I decided to embrace my weakness and showed eagerness to learn. I spent extra hours after school to prepare for model United Nations competitions which taught me to formulate speeches quickly, express disagreement in a diplomatic manner, and speak with 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 teamwork.

This experience makes me see my shortfalls as opportunities to develop myself instead of insecurities. I learn that being courageous is a good option when facing challenges.

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

Confident humility is 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 would eventually get it. I’m confident with my capability to learn, but also aware of my knowledge gaps, which motivates me to self study, ask questions and seek for more resources. I realized that this self-awareness pushes me to actualize the potential that I have.

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 wrote a research paper on the lack of education for children with special needs in Indonesia. I realized this complex challenge which couldn’t be tackled easily, leading me to do something more than reading articles and journals about it. I decided to start a passion project called “This Ability,” a project not only aimed to collect money but also empower children with special needs.

I chose to sell something simple and affordable and planned a unique design for it. The final product was a sweater with a compilation of the children’s handwriting of “Aku lebih dari keterbatasanku”, meaning “I am more than my limitations.”

I decided to collaborate with children with special needs to create an artwork for the design of the sweater. When trying to explain this project through phone calls, most respondents were out of reach. Those who answered said they will contact me back but never did. I kept contacting more schools until finally SLB Pangudi Luhur, a school with students who have hearing disability, 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.

This experience taught me integrity in doing a project that was not overseen by teachersand have no deadlines, and simultaneously strive for excellence in all the efforts. I would 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 passions: performing arts and early childhood education. I directed multiple plays for school and was involved in short movie productions outside of school, which boosted 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 NUS will prepare me with the knowledge and values to achieve it.