**NUS Essays**

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 do you take an online course? (550 characters)

I joined a biology quiz competition at Padjajaran University called Biology Challenge and managed to reach the semifinals. I am also reading a book by Siddhartha Mukherjee, called "The Song of The Cell". The book talks about his experiences meeting scientists and patients around the world and learning new things about cells. One of the book's most interesting parts was when he talked about Emily Whitehead who suffered from leukemia and was healed by using her extracted T cells that were grown and modified before being inserted back into her.

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)

I remember studying for my biology test on the anabolism, catabolism, and metabolism chapter. We had to study several cycles in that chapter. I tried to squeeze all the information in when preparing for the first exam and didn't really achieve great results. Months later, I had to memorize the cycles again for my finals, but I wanted to get better results. I remember that my teacher asked us to turn the cycles into song lyrics and I decided to use that method. On the exam, I was able to do the questions about that chapter very confidently.

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

My earphones are an item that is meaningful to me. I received these earphones as a gift from my friends on my seventeenth birthday. I appreciate the thoughtfulness and effort behind the gift. They know that I enjoy listening to music and that earphones are something that I always have with me. They asked me what I wanted and gifted me one of the highest quality earphones. I can see that they truly care for me and my interests. As a response to their kindness, I want to return their efforts by helping them to reach their goals however I can.

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)

My proudest achievement was when I won Gold Medal and First Place at PENABUR International Choir Festival 2022 with SMUKIEZ CHOIR (My school's choir). It shows my commitment because the preparation for this competition took about a year. We went through practices and rigorous recording sessions. Because it was recorded during the pandemic, we had to record videos as well. We innovated by using a green screen, which we had never done before, so the video could be more creative. For resilience, I faced a problem during one of the audio recordings, I caught the flu on the recording day and wasn't able to sing the high and long notes. It was upsetting, but didn't give up and was given another chance to redo it. Excellence, we all did our best because we wanted to win. I learned to respect my teammates and the people that were helping us because they all did their best to give the best results. We showed integrity by making sure we were not breaking any of the rules of the competition.

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

Teaching opportunity (Physics) (make it sort of a community service)

I was given the opportunity to teach Physics to a few of my classmates who were struggling with their academic scores in that subject. My homeroom teacher entrusted me to become the study group leader and mentor because she saw that I am a hardworking person and passionate for helping others. She also believes that my academic results are great and that I will be able to balance between teaching, studying, and other activities. I took the opportunity because I wanted to help my peers and gain new experiences.