**Explain, in detail, an experience you've had in the past 3 to 4 years related to your first-choice major. This can be an experience from an extracurricular activity, in a class you’ve taken, or through something else. 150 max**

***Draft 1***

As a beginner in competitive programming, simple sort and string matching algorithms were foreign to me. Because of the gap in knowledge, I’d come up with irregular solutions to problems, only to be met with failure. But Vale inspired me to keep persevering. Whenever I felt puzzled by one of the coding problems, as my mentor in Kokocoder Club, he’d always tell me, “Just think of any solution and try it. You can always optimize it later.” Every weekend, as I go through codeforces problems, he’d write multiple program solutions to single problems and write ridiculous solutions that surprisingly work to encourage more flexibility and open-mindedness in solving problems. His outlook in approaching problems taught me to think differently and be more daring and I was able to improve technically and mentally. I am keen on continuing my passion for problem solving through studying Computer Science at UIUC.

**Describe your personal/or career goals after graduating from UIUC and how your selected first-choice major will help you achieve them. 150 max**

***Draft 1***

My ultimate goal is to create games, using their power not only as a means of entertainment but also to educate the younger generation, raise awareness on issues, communicate messages and cultures and I want to do that by engaging in game development and research. With the CS major, not only will I learn about programming techniques used, I will also learn about the effective implementation of graphics behind games. Learning graphic rendering topics like “Ray Tracing” and design mechanics will promote the holistic development of my skills and allow me to contribute to both the functionality and art aspects of games. The major also opportunes me connections to organizations and like-minded people and to whom I can collaborate with. I hope to bring more positive recognition to gaming and taking part in this major will provide the expertise to do so and accomplish my goal in the industry.