**Essay 3**

**What have you done to make your school or your community a better place?**

DRAFT 1:

3.49 out of 5 is where Indonesia’s digital literacy rate lies according to Indonesia’s Ministry of Communication and Information Technology. It wasn’t until my grandma lost IDR10 million just because she clicked on a link from a text message she got, then, I realized how much my country’s digital literacy rate can be improved.

The need for digital literacy became apparent when the COVID pandemic hit. Underage children were behaving unethically on social media platforms, kids didn’t know how to utilize basic cloud services for online school, and people became more exposed to hoaxes. Witnessing this alarming need for digital education inspired me to take action. I came across Gendigital Academy’s (GenD) open recruitment on my friend’s Instagram story. Right then, I know that I’ve found a solution to my desire. Joining an organization that focuses on giving a chance for unprivileged children to discover the frontiers of technology in this digital era.

Together with my peers in GenD, we curated technology-related topics for the underprivileged kids that we mentored. Being assigned 3 eager kids, Shella, Ilma, and Syirla, my relationship with the kids grew deeper. I became more and more passionate and ended up doing things I wouldn’t do like talking in front of a camera. The joy I felt watching them grow from someone who knows nothing about Python up ‘till they were able to code a simple calculator, is what makes me enjoy what I do. The kids did not only experience growth in their skills and knowledge, but also in their love and eagerness to learn. At first, I had to constantly check up on them to see how they’re doing with the topic. I showed them that I’m also here as their friend and that it’s okay to not understand everything the first time. As time passed by, they started texting me for questions and help regarding the topic.

Although the GenD team received a MURI (Indonesian Museum World Record) award for implementing the largest digital literacy training for over 4000 kids all over Indonesia through zoom, I felt like the weekly Saturday tutoring created more impact for the kids. I was able to pay attention to each of my kids’ strengths and weaknesses. Not only that, I was also able to watch them grow as an individual and no award can ever replace that.