Essay #1 (Required for all applicants.)

Everyone belongs to many different communities and/or groups defined by (among other things) shared geography, religion, ethnicity, income, cuisine, interest, race, ideology, or intellectual heritage. Choose one of the communities to which you belong, and describe that community and your place within it. (300 words)

Every year, my grandma would make a bowl of glutinous rice (tangyuan), we would get together, and each of us would be served a bowl of tangyuan with a number of balls according to our age. I envied my older siblings because they would always have more balls than me. The pronunciation of Tangyuan is similar to the Chinese phrase for ‘togetherness’ and ‘family gathering.’ The Dongzhi festival is one of several other celebrations that the Chinese celebrate each year. Despite the fact that I live in Indonesia and that my parents and grandparents were born here, the Chinese tradition is still very much alive in our family.

I was born and raised in Indonesia, a country that I love with all my heart. I've been attending an international school since kindergarten; I speak English to my parents, and I've made friends with people from different nations. Unlike my grandfather, I feel little connection to China, a foreign country that I know only from stories and the internet, but understanding and learning about Chinese culture helped me understand my roots and ancestors. Knowing my grandfather's hardship when he chose to stay in Indonesia rather than return to China in the 1960s made me appreciate our family business. My grandfather proved that being a minority does not preclude you from giving back to society. The family business he founded 40 years ago now employs over 2000 people.

A proverb in Indonesia says, “Where the earth is stepped on there the sky is upheld." This was my grandfather’s belief and what he taught all of us. His words have always struck a chord with me whenever I've had to make a decision in my life. (283 words)

Essay #2 (Required for all applicants.)

Describe the unique qualities that attract you to the specific undergraduate College or School (including preferred admission and dual degree programs) to which you are applying at the University of Michigan. How would that curriculum support your interests?\* 550 words

It was August 2021; we went to Walmart to help my older brother move to his new apartment. It was my third trip to the United States, and I was always excited to visit Walmart. I was stunned when I looked around and saw aisle after aisle of empty shelves. Although I knew the pandemic had contributed to the supply chain breakdown, I was nonetheless taken aback by the scale of the situation. It has increased my interest in supply chain management.

During the pandemic, because of online school, I could do an internship at our family business. I was assigned to the purchasing department. My responsibility was to locate alternative suppliers for the steel pipe nipples factory. Before the pandemic, the factory relied on suppliers from China because of their competitive prices and range of products. The bad covid situation in China forced many companies to shut down their operations or delay shipments. My job was to assist the purchasing team in finding suppliers outside of China who offered comparable quality at a reasonable price.

I used to believe that purchasing meant simply being able to buy items of good quality on time and at a reasonable price. In six months of working at the company, making inquiries, comparing pricing, and meeting with suppliers online, I learned that supply chain management was much more complicated than I initially thought. Labor shortage and the ripple effect of global bottlenecks drastically altered the global supply chain. The brief introduction to supply chain management piqued my interest in learning more about this topic in college. My plan in Michigan Ross is to major in finance and earn a master's degree in supply chain management. With Supply Chain Consulting Studio, I hope to learn from leading supply chain companies and immerse myself in solving real-world problems that businesses face.

I'm also excited that Michigan Ross offers a minor in Real Estate Development. In Indonesia, a country with 280 million people, affordable housing has always been a problem. My father owns a real estate company that provides affordable housing to low-income people. His idea came after learning that many of his factory workers could not afford a home due to the expensive land and construction costs. I've been following his company since I was a child, and his positive impact on society has always inspired me. I want to learn about sustainable real estate business, the importance of financing, and its impact on the environment and society. Courses like Introduction to Urban and Environmental Planning and Real Estate Finance and Investments are what I want to explore when I take the minor in Real Estate Development.

My time at Umich will not be all academic-related; I would like to join the Michigan E-sport and connect with the gaming community. E-sport is my way of passing the time and relaxing, and I am excited to join the tournaments as well as other events held by the gaming community.

The University of Michigan offers exactly the kinds of courses, opportunities, and extracurricular activities I hope to find in a university. For that reason, I am confident that the University of Michigan is the right choice for me.