

Background Questions

(The answers to the questions are genuine responses which may or may not be applicable for application essays. They are not application specific.)

1. What has been your most challenging leadership experience?

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2. Which authors, books, articles or piece of music/poetry/art have had a profound impact on you and how? *

The poem, “Where the mind is without fear” by Rabindranath Tagore is one the best literature work that I have ever come across which has not only inspired me but generations in India and Bangladesh. The poems inspires everyone as it speaks about the ethics which a person should possess to lead a life of dignity. It has a profound impact on my life as I base my nature to lead a community where people enjoy all privileges of life irrespective of challenges that may come across. I live my life trying to carry on the belief or will to achieve what it takes for our society to stand firm as a pillar representing unity and integrity.

The other poems that I felt connected to are, “The Road Not Taken” by Robert Frost and “Do not go gentle into that good night” by Dylan Thomas.

I do not read quite often but the best novel that I ever read till the date happens to be, “The Alchemist” by Paulo Coelho. I felt lost in the context and beauty of how the author portrays the series of events that happens with a traveler in his quest to the treasure of his life. The book plays with the emotions of the people who read it for fun but end up

getting connected with the author feeling intense emotions of success, joy as well as the satisfaction that gives hope to be willing to continue life even after facing challenges.

3. What issues (local, national or international) concern you and what have you done about them? *

The issues that concerns me are related to social categorisation, multiple dimensions of stereotypes, prejudice, forms of discrimination and marginalisation. There are methods which can help to improve our society but it depends upon the geographical location to initiate the response system against any act of injustice provided it implies with laws and government rules, as well as fair understanding and treatment of the citizens of the country. I haven't contributed much to this because I live in country where fundamental and human rights including freedom of speech and expression is taken for granted. Being educated, aware and understanding, I have been careful and accommodating towards my friends, family and my surrounding. To me, any act which causes an individual to suffer is offensive and in an effort to help people I have been supportive and available for them.

4. How would your friends describe you? *

I love my friends and they play an important role in my life. They define me as an ambitious and passionate individual who is smart, intelligent and curious. They picture me as an optimist and determined person who strives for excellence and knowledge. In my presence they feel my affection by my communicative nature and open-mindedness. They keep high hopes and great deal of trust in me which is sufficient for my life to keep going.

(The above adjectives were directly taken from my data science project which required

peer assessment completed by my friends. The common separated values in the form of excel sheet is available here: <https://github.com/ImAshrivastava/KC-ImAshrivastava/blob/main/Documents/Peer%20assessment%20%20.csv>)

What are your strengths and talents? *

Strengths :

Ability to learn from mistakes, Creative thinking, Task prioritization, Discipline and determination, Analytical thinking, Communication skills, Dedication and enthusiasm, interpersonal skills and respectfulness, Organizational skills, Ability to multitask.

Talents:

I can build, interpret, understand or reverse engineer almost any kind of complex system consisting of mathematical, algorithmic, mechanical or electronic module.

5.Are there accomplishments of yours that you are particularly proud of, and why? *

My friends helped me to realise my potential whereas my parents and teachers supported me to accomplish my goals. My achievements at various research based competition has helped me to realise what it is that I wish to accomplish in my life. I will always credit my people for supporting me. I am blessed to have them in my life. I am proud of myself to realise their worth.

6. In what areas would you like to improve? *

I am a nervous being and I have an anxious mind. I wish to learn to communicate with others and myself openly in order to reduce my feeling of discomfort.

7. What has been your stimulating intellectual experience? *

I have challenged myself to pursue advanced courses in computer science and engineering. I completed my research projects on various topics at different labs in different institutes. Working with well-qualified people has been a really stimulating intellectual experience.

8. Describe the most difficult situation you have been in. How did you handle it? *

I try to be honest every time but this quality of mine has landed me into trouble. There have been a few situations where people have lied against me in front of my eyes. It has been difficult for me to handle such situations as I couldn't figure out any solution. The bad people won every time. I learned to ignore and let go what happened.

9. How do you spend a typical day after school? *

During my school days, I spent most of my time trying to build or learn something just out of curiosity. I usually did it after school or at night. (It is the reason why I use to sleep in my classes with my eyes open. :))

10. Who is your hero and how have that hero shaped you? *

I may be rude or arrogant at times or may be too demanding or too horrible to handle but inside me is a gentle being who appreciates everyone. My hero are my parents who have literally given their entire life for the well being of their children. Not even for once that they have ever thought about their life or their dreams but they only live today to see their children become successful.

It is my realisation about the importance of parents which tells me to live happily and fulfil my dreams. For every precious moment that I have ever had with my parents and for every sacrifice that they have made for me, I am going to make it count someday.

11. Who most helped you get to where you are today? *

My parents, teachers, mentors and friends have been there for me in my journey. I value them all and consider them equally important for me. They all have been really helpful. My parents have played a significant role to bless me with a good life.

12. How would you describe your role in your high school community? *

A sincere, talented and curious student engaging with classmates, batchmates and junior students to enjoy school life.

13. Describe a risk you have taken and its impact on you? *

I nagged my parents to invest their saving on a research project. It was a dead expensive research work. My research project was recognised and awarded.

14. Describe an ethical dilemma you have faced and its impact on you? *

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15. Describe a significant experience you have faced and its impact on you? *

I conducted an interdisciplinary research in neuroscience and brain computer interaction. I conducted my work in difficult situations when my teammate left me. It has been a challenging experience but I have learned to stay focus and work alone.

16. What's the hardest thing you have ever done? *

I worked on a project requiring in-depth study of the human brain. It was difficult to understand and interpret the scientific documents but I managed to accomplish my goal. I finally implemented a brain computer interface.

(To be honest! The hardest thing that I have ever done is going through an endoscopy procedure.)

17. What has been your biggest failure? *

Even though I am one of the best, I couldn't achieve to be a part of Team India to attend the ISEF. I have had severe disruption in my physical and mental well-being due to series of mishappenings which disrupted my life and life of people around me. As a teenager, it is my failure to handle the changes in my life due to the severity of the events.

18. What have you learnt from a mistake? *

It is in human nature to commit mistakes and learn from them to become wise. I have made a series of terrible mistakes which haunts me on a daily basis. I have learned to admit my mistakes and make the best judgement to avoid committing the same mistakes again. No matter what happens, committing a mistake is not the end of life.