

**Boston University**

**250 words**

***What about being a student at Boston University most excites you?\****

Endless possibilities open up before me as I am surrounded by Boston University's pulsing energy. More than simply an institution, BU is a place where I can grow as a person and ignite my passions. My heart is filled with pure excitement at the thought of participating in such a variety of extracurricular activities.

Innovate BU is one program that speaks to my goals. To explore entrepreneurship in venture competitions is like setting out on an exhilarating voyage. Working alongside like-minded individuals who share my ambition and drive allows me to tap into my innovative thinking and to explore and refine my leadership and entrepreneurial qualities.

BU's appeal does not stop there. I strongly identify with its commitment to diversity and inclusivity. I am overcome with pride as the chants of both the men's and the women's soccer teams reverberate around the campus. A sports enthusiast myself, I relish the chance to play on or support these teams, helping build an inclusive workplace where everyone feels appreciated and respected, encouraging a sense of camaraderie.

Particularly alluring are the university's study abroad programs, which emphasize global perspectives. A kaleidoscope of civilizations invites me to venture beyond my current surroundings. It is a fantastic opportunity for personal growth and development to spend two semesters abroad, experiencing different cultures firsthand, mingling with international students, and viewing the world from fresh perspectives. This experience will undoubtedly advance my academic career and provide me with a distinctive viewpoint that I can bring back to campus.

***Nobel laureate and BU professor Elie Wiesel once said: "There is divine beauty in learning... To learn means to accept the postulate that life did not begin at my birth. Others have been here before me, and I walk in their footsteps. The books I have read were composed by generations of fathers and sons, mothers and daughters, teachers and disciples. I am the sum total of their experiences, their quests." Is there a book, film, podcast or life- experience that has made you feel more connected to your personal history/identity, and what is the most important thing you learned from it?***

As an Indian, I've started a fascinating path of self-discovery where books, movies, podcasts, and life events have opened doors to my past and identity. One shining jewel shines out among these treasures: *The God of Small Things* by the peerless Arundhati Roy.

A literary masterwork that transports readers to a universe rich in emotion and societal intricacies, *The God of Small Things* goes beyond the bounds of a simple narrative. I became increasingly engrossed in the lives of the book's characters with each page turn, feeling their hardships and goals as though they were my own. The curtain is pulled back to show the intricate layers of India's social structure via the prism of Roy's entrancing words.

I watch as the caste system takes shape within the pages of this captivating story. The lyrical writing and rich pictures transport me to Kerala's lush landscapes, where the strict barriers of social hierarchy loom large. I am enthralled by the misery of people whose hopes are crushed by the weight of tradition and who are constrained by the chains of their birth. Roy's story serves as a moving reminder of the ongoing struggles faced by underprivileged people, kindling a fire within me to question the unfair conventions that still pervade our society.

*The God of Small Things* portrays the interplay of India's colonial history, yet it is more than just a mirror reflecting the past. Through its pages, the echoes of British control reverberate, shining a piercing light on the scars that a turbulent past has left behind. I am taken back to a time when the British Empire never set and when exploitation stifled the voice of a nation. I am compelled by Roy's skilful storytelling to confront the ghosts of our colonial past, discover the foundations of our national identity, and declare our cultural sovereignty once more.

My quest to connect with my personal history and identity began in the depths of literature and has since expanded to the rich tapestry of life experiences. I can still feel the ethereal atmosphere of Varanasi, where the hallowed Ganges River whispers knowledge of the past. Meeting the live descendants of India's history has left me with a deep appreciation for the depth of our heritage. I am deeply knit into the fabric of Indian culture during the joyful celebration of our traditional festivals. The bright episodes of our history come to life through the exuberant colours of Holi, the alluring glow of Diwali, and the rhythmic fervor of Navratri.

India's vibrant past and present have permeated every fiber of my being. The enchantment of narrative has been unfurled in *The God of Small Things* by Arundhati Roy, revealing the strands of identity and history. These meetings, together with life events that have taken me to wonderful places and submerged me in the vibrancy of our traditions, have influenced my view of myself and sparked a fervor to honor our shared path. I move on, ready to embrace the opportunities that lie ahead, my heart pulsing with the rhythms of my own unique history.

#### CMU 300 words

**Most students choose their intended major or area of study based on a passion or inspiration that's developed over time – what passion or inspiration led you to choose this area of study? 300**

Football, or soccer, is a microcosm of society, where people cooperate to accomplish a common objective. In the same way that people in an economy each represent a different piece of the jigsaw, so do the players. The collaboration, cooperation, and strategic decision-making needed on the field are consistent with economic principles.

My participation in several football games has given me invaluable knowledge of the mechanics of supply and demand. Similarly to how players contribute their abilities and talents to the team, the desire to succeed drives us to get better and do better. Understanding this equilibrium has both improved my on-field performance and piqued my interest in learning more about the economic factors that shape our global economy.

Football exemplifies the rules of market behavior, from the sponsorship deals to the multimillion dollar trades. By studying economics, I will be able to understand the complexities of these transactions; evaluate how they affect the clubs, players, and fans; and consider potential tactics for the football industry's long-term financial stability and growth.

Football also bridges cultural and geographic barriers. Exploring the impact of global trade, foreign investment, and economic integration is made fascinatingly possible by the sport's globalization. I am motivated to research how major football tournaments, like the World Cup, affect local economies, infrastructure development, and tourism as I observe the economic effects of such events.

Through the study of economics, I want to learn more about the factors that influence our society, analyze the financial aspects of the football industry, and investigate how the sport affects the dynamics of the world economy. This endeavor will also give me the opportunity to combine my love of football with the study of a subject that has the potential to change people's lives.

***Many students pursue college for a specific degree, career opportunity or personal goal. Whichever it may be, learning will be critical to achieve your ultimate goal. As you think ahead to the process of learning during your college years, how will you define a successful college experience?***

A great college experience goes beyond merely learning in a traditional classroom setting. While schooling is unquestionably an essential component, real success comes from partaking in a wide range of pastimes that support the learning process.

Developing deep connections with my teachers, peers, and mentors profoundly enhances my college experience. These relationships give me a network of support, enhancing my feeling of identity and well-being. Participating in open conversations, team projects, and extracurricular activities expose me to a variety of viewpoints and promote an intellectual interchange. My academic success and emotional stability during the unavoidable challenges of college life are both made possible by strong connections, which also contribute to my mental health in a favorable way.

Active involvement in groups, volunteer work, or mentoring initiatives fosters a feeling of purpose for me and advances my leadership and communication abilities. By assisting others, I also strengthen my own conceptual understanding, cement my knowledge, and develop empathy and compassion—elements that are priceless in both the personal and professional worlds.

In addition to serving as a stress reliever, pursuing extracurricular interests improves my creativity, self-discipline, and time management abilities. Football, my passion, promotes perseverance, teamwork, and strategic thinking—characteristics that can be transferred to academic endeavors, improving my overall learning outcomes.

A successful college experience is not solely defined by my academic achievements, but rather by a holistic approach that encompasses various aspects of my personal growth. Through this well-rounded approach, I can maximize my potential, create lasting memories, and truly thrive during my college years. So, as I embark on this journey, I will remember that true success lies not only in the pursuit of knowledge but also in the vibrant tapestry of experiences that support and enhance my learning.

***Consider your application as a whole. What do you personally want to emphasize about your application for the admission committee's consideration? Highlight something that's important to you or something you haven't had a chance to share. Tell us, don't show us (no websites please). (300 word maximum)***

As a football captain, I've learned that true leadership is about encouraging and assisting others to rise above themselves rather than focusing on power or achieving personal glory.

I stood in the heat of the football field on tournament day, feeling the weight of leadership on my shoulders. My stomach wrenched, but I knew it was my responsibility to transform fear into confidence. I had already spent hours training my teammates, inspiring them to believe they could achieve greatness.

As we stepped onto the field, I kept my head held high; I had gone over the strategy with each team member. Then I noticed that a newfound spirit engulfed us. Every player brought their special talents and skills to the game as we moved across the field like a symphony.

We scored seven goals, defying odds and demonstrating our abilities and the power of strong leadership. The win belonged to the entire squad. I had stoked the passions of my teammates, fostering a group fire that blazed more brilliantly than any individual spark.

I want to emphasize my dedication to using leadership to uplift and empower others. I believe that leadership can be used in any endeavor. I can contribute to a thriving community and have a great impact in college if I apply this mindset there. I have faith that my aptitude for leadership and enthusiasm for personal and professional development will help me succeed and make a significant contribution.

**We are contemplating which version to use.**

**New Version (\*)**

Shadows flickered across the walls of the dimly lit room, reflecting the shattered fragments of my world. The weight of my parents' divorce pressed down on me, crushing my spirit like a boulder. Beyond the divorce alone, the painful irony that I had finally found comfort in a new father figure, only to have that comfort torn away, was what ultimately brought me to my knees.

After my biological father took his own life, it left behind a void that seemed impossible to fill. Amidst the darkness, a compassionate man entered our lives. He guided me through times of pain and suffering,

mending the broken pieces of my heart. But it wouldn't be too long until my mother's relationship with him broke down irretrievably. Constant fighting and bickering became the norm.

After the divorce papers were signed and the dust had settled, it was just my mother and me again.

"You know," my mother once chuckled, "They say every cloud has a silver lining. Well, ours is that we get to have ice cream for dinner now!"

We sat at the kitchen table, indulging in desserts and snacks and exchanging humorous stories. Life had thrown us a curveball, but we refused to let it define who we were.

I found strength and comfort in the refuge of our laughter. My academic journey, which had been derailed by turbulent storms, started to stabilise. My mother's consistent encouragement helped me rediscover my love of learning.

She used to remark, "Education is your passport to the world, my dear," with pride in her eyes. "Never forget your incredible potential."

And in the warmth of my mother's love, I've learned to embrace the uncertainty of life.

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**Emory**

***What academic areas are you interested in exploring in college?\* (200)***

I first became interested in economics during a seemingly routine lunch break, when I came across the idea of behavioral economics and the power of nudging. As I reached for an orange instead of my favorite bag of chips, I recognized the enormous influence economics has on our daily choices and well-being. From that point on, I started to understand the mechanisms that underlie our decision-making processes.

I immediately dove into the study of economics outside of the classroom, reading news items, learning about various schools of thought, and having passionate discussions with friends and family. Arguments about classical and Keynesian economics, or whether the government should implement particular policies, created intellectual battlegrounds that honed my thinking and broadened my outlook. I realized that economics requires a careful examination of unintended consequences and the intricacies of market intervention in addition to illuminating the effectiveness of incentives and nudging.

As I consider my time in college, I am eager to learn more about the diverse field of economics. I long to learn more about the complexities of macroeconomic policy, the workings of global commerce, and the transforming power of sustainable development.

**If you could witness a historic event (past, present or future) first-hand, what would it be, and why? (150)**

If I could witness a historic event first-hand, I would transport myself to 1965 to witness Pele's legendary bicycle kick goal.

Imagine the energized stadium and experience the intensity of expectation. Time slows down as Pele soars through the skies. The audience's collective gasp reflects the passion and commitment he has put into his craft. Observing this event demonstrates the impact of real leadership and the transformational power of resilience. Pele's triumph serves as a reminder that excellence is attainable through unyielding tenacity and an expansive vision. Being in the moment sparks a fire inside me that encourages personal development and motivates me to exhibit these same qualities. To witness Pele's bicycle kick goal is to witness the epitome of human potential, leaving an indelible mark on the spirit and fueling a determination to reach new heights. This instance exemplifies the virtues of perseverance, diligence, and leadership.

**Purdue**

**How will opportunities at Purdue support your interests, both in and out of the classroom? (Respond in 100 words or fewer.)\***

Being part of the Purdue Economics Association will provide a valuable network of individuals who share my passion for economics. Through engaging discussions and interactions with like-minded peers, I hope to gain new perspectives and insights that go beyond the classroom. The association's talks on recent developments in economics, such as the breakdown of Credit Suisse, will serve as a valuable complement to my academic learning, allowing me to stay up to date with the field's ever-evolving landscape. Being a member of the Purdue Economics Association will help me grow as a knowledgeable and well-rounded student of the subject.

**Briefly discuss your reasons for pursuing the major you have selected. (Respond in 100 words or fewer.)\***

I chose to study economics because it captivated me with its profound impact on our daily lives. I became engrossed with economics from my first class, consuming information, engaging in impassioned discussions, and researching different economic schools of thought. I now long to understand the complexity of macroeconomic policy, international trade, and sustainable development as I start my academic career. With its capacity to shed light on unintended consequences and the influence of incentives, economics compels me to learn more about the forces that shape our world and gives me the chance to make a significant contribution to its transformation.

**UVA**

**Take us to your happy place.**

My happy place unfolds in a kitchen. I enjoy delicious ice cream treats while laughing and having sincere chats with my dear mum. Warmth and flavor combine to create unforgettable moments. In this place, time stands still, and the commonplace pleasure of ice cream is transformed into a priceless memory.

***What is the last gift you gave someone that wasn't bought with money?***

I gave the gift of sustainable change. I encouraged the owners of *dhabas*, or roadside restaurants, to use eco-friendly substitutes by introducing and promoting banana leaf utensils. Through perseverance and genuine discussions, I empowered the owners to both make a positive difference in their community and protect the environment.

***PART 1: We are looking for passionate students to join our diverse community of scholars, researchers, and artists. Answer the question that corresponds to the school/program to which you are applying in a half page or roughly 250 words***

Life Lessons Learned in Football is a life-changing course that examines the significant parallels between sport and life. Beyond the game, this training offers priceless insights into leadership, dedication, resiliency, compassion, and teamwork. As a lifetime fan, I have seen how football moulds character both on and off the field. By bringing this course to the University of Virginia, I will be able to take advantage of football's ability to inspire and educate students from all walks of life.

Football is more than just a sport; it teaches values like discipline, tenacity, and foresight. Adversity forces us to work together, cooperate, and communicate effectively. These teachings apply outside of the game and are essential for achievement in any field.

Football also provides a platform to explore emotions and empathize with others. By studying legends, analyzing crucial situations, and thinking back on experiences, students learn compassion and resilience, two traits that can help prepare them for life's most difficult challenges.

Life Lessons Learned in Football will provide access to a wide range of resources for the success and personal growth students need to shape their communities and become tomorrow's leaders. This course will go beyond the walls of the typical classroom, encouraging students to embrace their principles and realize their potential in order to succeed in both their personal and professional lives. By blending football's transforming potential into the curriculum, UVA will offer a comprehensive education that equips students for a fruitful life.