Kuoyuan yang

I may be thinking in the past, but every time I see modern technology, I can't seem to suppress my amazement. How does a plane fly so high despite being large and heavy? How can a telephone transmit audio signals across the globe? These thoughts have been haunting me every day since I first came to United States six years ago. I have then decided to create a technology that would be carved into human history. It shall not be forgotten even after a thousand years.

Although at the time, I couldn't decide what kind of technology I wanted to make, I knew I needed at least a bachelor's degree to do this. I made a short-term career goal, that is to get into a good college. I knew that my English was my weak link in getting in a good college. Coming into United States, I didn't know any English other than the words chair and umbrella. And this was a huge problem for me because I had such a hard time trying to communicate with my American classmates. Most of them would just stop listening to me in a conversation when they didn't understand what thought I was trying to express. Thus, I made a personal goal, that is to improve my English skills as fast as possible. I would spend an hour or two just to try to get my pronunciation right for one word. When I read a book, I would stop and look something up in the dictionary every time I didn't know a word. And that made reading really frustrating at times.

After 2 years of being in United States, I got rid of my accent; people could not tell whether I was a native English speaker. During those two years, whenever I got tired of reading in English, I would find a Chinese fiction book to read. That was when I discovered a Chinese science fictional concept. I found many Chinese science fiction books that were about virtual reality. It was not the virtual reality that already exists where a person puts on a headset and the headset generates images to make it appear like another world, because the user is still feeling the real world. He/she can still move and touch and smell the real world. For the virtual reality in the Chinese fictions, the headset detects the user's thoughts and makes the person smell, touch, see, and move in the virtual world only. This allows users to do anything in the virtual world and not have to worry about getting injured in real world; the user can just lie in bed and use the headset. I made this my long-term goal as soon as I discovered this concept.

I am a computer science major at University of Maryland. I hope to use my programming knowledge to achieve my goal and make people remember my headset even after a thousand years.