400 words UIUC Why Major

My curiosity toward technology started when I played Pokémon at seven. For the first time, I get to fly over mountains on the back of a dragon or fight against poisonous butterflies with a group of gophers. I was amazed by the capability of this game installed on a hand-sized screen. I started to look more closely into this game and the screen running it, trying to figure out what powers this magical dream portal. Computer science, for the first time I learned this word from my mom’s software engineer friend after he saw me crying. I thought I killed all the Pokemons living in the game console when I failed to bring my broke-into-parts game console back to life. By the moment I typed the word “Computer Science” with my tiny fingers, the gate of the Computer Science World has officially opened to me. I was like a mouse falling into the rice bowl, the computer science knowledge on the internet blow my mind again and again as I learn more about it. I began to self-study computer science through the internet, trying to drain every bit relevant to it into my brain.

As I learned my first programming language in my life, Python, from the internet. I decided to use it as a tool to solve problems I encountered in my life. Frustrated by the inconvenience to obtain my calculated GPA at school, I decided to make a GPA calculator for my grade. After the release of my app, I was shocked by the positive feedback from my classmates and teachers. For the first time, I have experienced the happiness and pride I get from programming. I decided to improve my programming skills and continue to realize my ideas into realities.

Now I am working on a free programming learning website because I wanted everyone to have the equal chance to learn programming. Although I am enriching my computer science knowledge while I am working on this project, there are still parts that confuses me and limits I cannot break only by learning from the knowledge through the internet. I hope to fulfill my gap in computer science by taking the computer science major in UIUC, where I can learn about Artificial Intelligence and implement that to the course recommendation system of my website. By learning computer science systematically UIUC, I don’t only learn a special set of computer skills. I also get to understand the principles and design guidelines which allows me to think like computer scientists instead of just having a set of computer science skills.

Computer science to me is a powerful companion that allows me to achieve my dreams. I wish that one day, people around me will respect and support my interest in Computer Science, instead of interpreting my interest into an excuse to play video games.