As an avid game enthusiast, I have long been aware that online chat and virtual community features of video games provide teenagers a vibrant place where people can exchange ideas, build social connections, and make innovations happen. The gamer community’s great potential for inspiring unlimited personal development is undeniable.

Personally, I was once immersed in a dynamic game community of Minecraft as I was building a calculator in the game using redstone, an in-game feature that works in a similar logic to the binary system of a computer. The developing process was filled with obstacles and challenges right from the beginning of figuring out the underlying logic of arithmetic operations. To make progress, I reached out for help in one of the largest Minecraft Discord group chats: “Does anyone know how to store data in a staging area using an in-game comparer?” Two minutes after I asked in the chat box, I got the reply I desired: “Same question here. Hey, maybe we could work together?”

In just a few months, more and more players joined our calculator-building project. Each player contributed and shared innovative ideas enthusiastically. Although we faced a great setback as we realized that the calculator monitor could only be limited to a 14 x 14-block space, we kept trying out different methods while encouraging one another to carry on our exploration. By being involved in intense group discussions and careful analysis, both my communication skills and problem-solving skills were significantly developed. More importantly, our chat group brought together people of diverse countries, ages, personal backgrounds, etc., which enabled me to absorb a wide variety of insights, opinions, and perspectives that were unique to their culture or upbringing. Bearing the mindset of openness and inclusiveness, I developed in my previous experience, I believe I will greatly contribute to building a collaborative and diverse campus atmosphere at Cornell.