Profile

Personal information

Name	GOYAL, SOUMIL
Share different name	No
Birthdate	02/08/2006

Contact details

Email, Phone	soumil.goyal@yahoo.com.sg, +1.832-212-5160, Mobile, +65.85485804, Mobile
Permanent address	33 Margaret Drive, #32-230 Singapore, 140033, SGP

Demographics

Gender Identity	Male
Sex	Male
Pronouns	He/Him
Military status	None

Language

Hindi	First Language, Speak, Read, Write, Spoken at Home
English	First Language, Speak, Read, Write, Spoken at Home
Mandarin	Speak, Read, Write

Geography and nationality

Citizenship status	Citizen of non-U.S. country
Birthplace	Mumbai, India 9 years US
Other citizenships	Singapore
Current US Visa	E-2 Dependent of Treaty Investor, 20222298780003 Issued: 09/20/2024

Common App fee waiver

Fee waiver requested Yes, Signed: SOUMIL GOYAL

Family

Household

Parents	Married
Home	Other, Alone (not supported by any parents nor guardians)

Parent 1

Mother

Name	Mrs. Dolly Goyal (Mittal)
Email, Phone	dreamgirl2106@yahoo.com, +1.832-773-9978, Mobile
Occupation	Other, Dance Teacher, Self-Employed
Education	Graduated from trade school or community college Masters (2002), MKP College, New Road race course, Dehradun, Uttarakhand, India

Parent 2

Father

Name	Mr. Ashish Goyal
Email, Phone	ashigoyal1@gmail.com, +1.281-687-9342, Mobile
Occupation	Engineer, Employed, Sempra Infrastructure
Education	Graduated from trade school or community college Other (1999), Amravati University, New Express Highway, Ram Meghe Square, Badnera, Amravati, Maharashtra, India

Siblings

Dhruv Goyal, Age 14

Education

Current or most recent secondary school

Mirabeau B Lamar Senior High School, 3325 Westheimer Rd, Houston, TX, USA, Public, CEEB: 443405 (09/2020 - 06/2024)

Progression	No change in progression
Graduation Date	06/2024

Colleges & universities

Grades

Rank	18 / 755, Weighted
GPA	4 / 4, Unweighted

Current or most recent year courses

First semester	Second semester
CALC - IB HL AA Mathematics - (IB)	CALC - IB HL AA Mathematics - (IB)
PHYS - IB HL Physics - (IB)	PHYS - IB HL Physics - (IB)
LANG - IB HL Mandarin Chinese - (IB)	LANG - IB HL Mandarin Chinese - (IB)
COMPSCI - IB SL Computer Sciences - (IB)	COMPSCI - IB SL Computer Sciences - (IB)
ENG - IB HL English Language and Literature - (IB)	ENG - IB HL English Language and Literature - (IB)
HIST - IB Psychology SL - (IB)	HIST - IB Psychology SL - (IB)
OTH/ELE - IB Theory of Knowledge - (IB)	
	HIST - Personal Financial Literacy & Economics - (GFTED)

Honors

Vex World Inspiration All Star Award, FIRST District Engineering Inspiration Award, & 19+ trophies	State/Regional, International	10, 11, 12

2x Debate Nationals Qualifier; 2nd-Ranked Extemporaneous Speaker in NSDA South Texas	State/Regional, National	10, 11, 12
Autodesk University Industry Talk Host (2023)	International	12
Future Engineers Veterans' Pin Design Challenge Finalist	National	11
Ambition Accelerator Top Voted Idea & "Inspirational" - Mark King (Taco Bell CEO)	National	11

Community-based organizations

CBO 1	Lamar College Corner
Counselor	Mrs. Cristal Hernandez
Email, Phone	Cristal.Hernandez@houstonisd.org
CBO 2	Communities In Schools
CBO 3	Lamar Writing Lab

Future plans

Other, Roboticist, Doctorate

Testing

SAT tests

Evidence-based Reading and Writing	750	12/01/2023
Math	750	03/21/2023
Taken	2	
Planned	0	
SAT Essay	No	

AP Subject Tests

Government & Politics: United States	5	05/2023
World History	5	05/2022
Human Geography	5	05/2021

IB Subject Tests

Physics-HL-English	04/2024
Psychology-SL-English	05/2024
Computer Science-HL-English	04/2024
English A: Language and Literature-HL	04/2024
Mathematics Analysis and Approaches-HL	04/2024
Chinese B - Mandarin-HL	04/2024

Activities

Robotics

10, 11, 12
School, Break, Year
14 hr/wk, 40 wk/yr
Continue

Team Captain/President, DiscoBots: FRC, Vex, Combat Robotics, and Outreach Teams
Manage 80+ members & 10 teams to create industrial-level, internationally accomplished robots; made team history in most awards each season.

Research

10, 11, 12
Break
3 hr/wk, 20 wk/yr
Continue

Founder/President, Robust Adaptive Network Disaster Response System
Invent & lead a novel solution to disaster response with support of the Mayor of Houston, Taco Bell Foundation, DiscoBots, ION Houston, and more.

Athletics: JV/Varsity

9, 10, 11, 12
School, Break, Year
9 hr/wk, 40 wk/yr
Continue

Other Sport, Black-Belt & Jyokyonim (Instructor), Houston Center For Taekwondo
Learn & compete under the World Taekwondo Federation for sparring, forms, and weapons. Help guide ~10 state-level competing students.

Debate/Speech

10, 11, 12
School
6 hr/wk, 37 wk/yr
Continue

Team Captain/President , Lamar Competition Speech & Debate Team
Competed nationally; guide 50+ students in NSDA, TXFA, UIL and HUDL tournaments; managed through administration to handle organizational tasks.

Other Club/Activity

10, 11, 12
School
2 hr/wk, 30 wk/yr
Continue

Founder/President, Pedal Power Community Project
Solo community welfare project of off-grid, resilient, and climate aware power generation solutions. Won $750 from NWF and installed the project.

Internship

11, 12
School, Break
4 hr/wk, 19 wk/yr
Continue

Intern & CNC Specialist, ION Houston Prototyping Lab
Restored a professional CNC machine for community use; maintained this industrial facility's manufacturing & engineering equipment.

Internship

10, 11, 12
School, Break
2 hr/wk, 30 wk/yr
Continue

Web Developer/Designer, Steps For Dancing
Learned to design, program, and launch websites; Create and maintain an online presence to help my mother's startup: https://www.stepsfordancing.com

Theater/Drama

9, 10
School
12 hr/wk, 30 wk/yr
Continue

Troupe Officer & Varsity Play Productions Actor, International Thespians Honours Society
Acted in various lead, sub-lead, and technical roles for play productions; coordinated productions, rehearsals, and competitions amongst ~50 members.

Science/Math

12
School
4.5 hr/wk, 36 wk/yr
Continue

Team Captain/President, Lamar Competition Mathematics Team
Compete at a regional and state level in 3 events; manage and mentor 15+ students in competition, SAT, UIL, and higher-level mathematics.

Community Service (Volunteer)

10, 11, 12
School
1.5 hr/wk, 20 wk/yr
Continue

Den Chief; Patrol Lead (2021), Boy Scouts of America (Troop 55)
Achieved Star ranking in USA's largest troop; Volunteer to guide younger scouts in new skills & activities; organized camps and lessons for my patrol

Writing

Personal essay

Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.

“Let’s walk around this way” someone says, but I can’t hear them. While all the others are on their detour, I am spellbound by this hulking giant. Its rusty forks unfold with a practiced ease, aligning perfectly with the sleeves of the commercial waste unit. The machine raises this vessel with a confidence born of experience, feeling the weight through the depression of its front-axle suspension. Once ready, it swings the massive load over the front, resonating clanking vibrations that ripple through the surroundings, turning the mundane act of waste disposal into my captivating spectacle. As the payload is turned upside down, it’s hung high over the receiving hopper, dumping an avalanche of waste. In this moment, the *dump truck* is more than just a machine; it's a reminder of my identity, interests, and mindset.

In the same way I was transfixed by the dump truck’s machinery, whenever I find a fascinating piece of software, structure, or science, I lose track of time, putting myself in the position of that product developer. I ponder on the foresight the engineers had to make certain that the garbage truck’s forks are still usable even if the vehicle is on an incline. I admire the programmers that created robust threads of continuous sensor-checks that protect from thousands of failures. I look up to the designers who had to ensure the garbage truck’s center of gravity would remain positioned well enough that swinging the heavy bin over the front wouldn’t be a hazard.

All these ingenious thinkers juggled countless factors like durability, cost, safety, manufacturing difficulty, regulations, repairability, and time-constraints to finish this spectacular product, an invention that serves as a backbone of essential infrastructure.

As I aspire to be part of that impactful community of makers, I am continuously thankful that I have the opportunity to lead in a similar way. For example, from my current experience as the team captain of a large, growing robotics team, I practice the intricate trade-offs, balances, and decision making required of a successful leader. While managing 80+ members across 7 separate schools to develop industrial-level, internationally competing robots, I regularly face crossroads where all decisions come with a list of cons and wishes of pros. Every path is uncertain: every path looks good, yet every path seems bad. Although such a position deters most minds, I find myself, again, spellbound by the role of this leader. I swiftly, yet level-headedly, analyze possibilities to proceed on the best-seeming path, conquering obstacles, failures, and surprises along the way.

Additionally, these successes never happen alone. Akin to the way that garbage trucks don't function without waste containers, and the whole system doesn't work without landfills, I recognize the vitality of collaboration and work with all to achieve greater accomplishments.

Furthermore, as I advance through this maze of choices, I make use of my deeply reflective nature to squeeze all the lessons learned from any result through the process. This builds a collection of clues and maps, an arsenal of experience to guide future journeys. Moreover, I am always ready to discard any opinion or notion proven wrong along the way, discipling myself that my attachment to any beliefs should not restrict my potential and my actions.

This combination of observation, decision-making, leadership, and reflection is a core mentality so meaningful to me that all my successes are attributed to this critical mindset. More importantly, all my failures are systematically reflected upon and built from to enhance my overall foresight and character for the future. With this approach, a cornerstone of my identity, I aim to leverage these traits in guiding teams towards collaborative success.

By weaving the harmony of curiosity, adaptability, and resilience into the fabric of leadership, I endeavor to inspire others in navigating our world's intricate terrains, unveiling unique, impactful solutions—each akin to their own dump truck, a critical culmination of multifaceted design with purposeful execution.

Community disruption

My family and friends have endured the Mumbai Floods, Turkey Earthquakes, Hurricane Harvey, and Winter Storm Uri. These events left a profound impact on my outlooks and initiatives.

Living through the floods, storms, winds, ice, and debris was an ever-present sense of impending doom. It was scary knowing if there was some emergency, we had no means of calling for help. It was dreadful knowing that as our supplies dwindled, there were no shops to stock up essentials.

Despite these experiences, I consider myself lucky that my immediate family escaped permanent harm. This fortune reminded me of the capricious, unforgiving nature of such events and their far-reaching consequences.

This recognition of the unresolved challenges society faces in dealing with natural disasters led me to inventing the Robust Adaptive Network (RAN). RAN is a system of drones and rovers that provides essential cell signals, delivers urgent supplies, and relays important information during disasters. I've worked on this project with support from the Mayor of Houston, the Taco Bell Foundation, DiscoBots, Ashoka, ION Houston, and more.

But even with my current programming models, 3D designs, and system prototypes, I acknowledge the years of challenges ahead in realizing my invention. This is a significant reason of I want to

study Engineering and Computer Science in college. I believe that many global problems can be addressed through advances in technologies similar to RAN. My pursuit of your world-class education and my insights from personal experience drive me to solve pressing issues in the world.

Additional information

1) After my birth in India, my family relocated to Singapore, where we settled and gained citizenship. Unexpectedly, when I was 8, we moved to the US for a 2-year project in my father's job. However, as that job lengthened to various reassignments and the 2 years extended indefinitely, I have now lived in the US for 9 years. However, as still a Singaporean citizen, I now face my mandatory military service term.

The prospect of diverging from the traditional trajectory and delaying my college experience is undeniably disheartening. While the excitement of higher academics approaches for many, I have to trudge on a different path. It's easy to perceive this as a setback, an interruption to the flow of education and personal growth, but I choose to cultivate a positive mindset. I see this national service commitment as a unique chapter in my life's narrative. It's an opportunity to embrace a change in lifestyle and forge bonds in my old home. By approaching this mandatory service with an open mind, I anticipate gaining valuable insights and skills that will enrich my future journey.

Rather than viewing these two years as a delay, I see them as an investment in a more holistic self. Now, being 6-months into my NS, I am on-track to become an Officer for the SAF, an opportunity for only the top 10% of all Singaporean boys and the highest rank achievable by any National-Serviceman. After I commission as a Second-Lieutenant, I'll be a Platoon Commander, responsible for at least 64 lives under my leadership. Through my NS, I have also earned the IPPT Gold Award, and Best Company Award.

2) One unique result of my Indian, Singaporean, and American culture exposure is my proficiency in Hindi, Mandarin, and English.

I hold the traditional backgrounds and perspectives of my heritage to be very valuable. This is one of the reasons I maintain a native proficiency in my mother tongue, Hindi.
Along with this, my education outside home has been in English, so I am also natively proficient in English.

However, after being born in India and immigrating to Singapore, I decided to pursue learning Mandarin so I could better connect with the vast majority of Singaporeans who are Chinese. Even after advice against learning this impossible language at that late age (especially since most Singaporeans speak English anyways), I worked hard to learn the language and surpassed some native speakers of my age. Although I am now in the US, where I lack much incentive to keep up my Mandarin, I still practice and improve. I have written essays, won speech contests, and can hold a proper conversation in Mandarin. I am especially proud of this skill because I do not have any Chinese relatives/background to build off of, I instead had to start independently and have successfully reached a respectable position.

3) I would like to highlight some of my community involvements, here is a link to my community-hours log: https://soumilgoyal.com/index.html#community-service-log

Through this record, you can see that a majority of my community service hours log are dedicated to actions like teaching younger peers or volunteering at educational competitions. One reason for this is because of the high value I place on education. I am grateful for inspiring education I have received, and I admire the power to inspire others similarly. Additionally, especially relating to my 90+ hours of community service towards multiple competition, as a competitive student, I have been thankful for all the competitions I have been able to participate in. Amongst these events, none of them ran without volunteers, meaning that my accolades, skills, and experiences were built upon the gracious selflessness of other volunteers. From this, I have a calling to continue their impacts by volunteering in competitions, ensuring that any other students will have the opportunity of smooth, fair, and constructive competitions.

Thanks for reviewing my application.

Sincerely,

Soumil Goyal

Education progression

Details

Education progression details	No change in progression

California Institute of Technology (Caltech) questions

General

Name Choice	First Name
Preferred start term	Fall 2025
Admission plan	Regular Decision
Fee Waiver	Caltech Active Transport Pass (ATP)
US School	Yes
Citizenship status (to determine if TOEFL and Financial Statement are required)	No
If currently residing outside of the US, are you a refugee, internally displaced person, asylum seeker, stateless person?	No
International Financial Aid Statement - Do you intend to apply for financial aid?	Yes

Academics

CCP: requirement	Yes
Domestic LOR Requirement	Yes
Have you done coursework at a college, online institution, or program that is not included on your high school transcript?	Yes

Academic extenuating circumstances

I am a IB Diploma candidate. The IB Diploma Programme is the most rigorous path of courses, projects, and service requirements in my school. Theatre has been a significant passion of mine

since the beginning of high school. Unfortunately, due to scheduling conflicts arising from my participation in the IB Diploma Programme, I was unable to continue taking theatre classes from 11th grade onward. This same conflict alsoprevented me from enrolling in a debate class during my 12th-grade year as well as pursuing the IB-level economics course. Nevertheless, despite not formally being enrolled in theatre or debate classes, I remain connected to the theatre department and continue to lead the debate team. Furthermore, I am committed to enrolling in a non-IB economics class to further my understanding in this subject.

SAT technical challenges	Yes, I was able to take an exam.

Optional Supplemental Material

Research project submission	Yes
Portfolio	Yes
Additional STEM Honors	Yes

Contacts

parent communication contact	Parent 1: Yes, Parent 2: Yes

Context & Background

Sometimes academic records and extracurricular activities are impacted by family responsibilities or other circumstances. We would like to know about these responsibilities and circumstances. Your responses will not negatively impact your application. You may repeat some information you already provided in the Common App Activities section. Please select which activities you spend 4 or more hours per week doing.

• Doing tasks for my family or household (cooking, cleaning, laundry, etc.)
• Living independently or living on my own (not including boarding school)
• Managing family or household finances, budget, or paying bills
• Working at a paid job to contribute to my household's income
• Other - I live alone without any financial support from my parents, so I take care of all household tasks and pay with my own National Service salary.

Family

Sibling	No

Ethical AI Guidelines

Verifications of submitted materials	To the best of my knowledge, all information provided in this application is accurate and honest.

Other Information

Area of Study 1	Mechanical Engineering
Area of Study 2	Computer Science

Option #1 Short Answer Essay

There wasn’t any one defining moment on my journey from young LEGO-player to Autodesk Engineering Conference Guest Speaker. Rather, it was a long series of broken parts, programming glitches, and tiny victories that showed me the enchanting potential of engineering and computer science.

However, today my sights are on goals that extend beyond conquering robotics tournaments and winning trophies. Instead, I aspire to pioneer robots, tools, software, and concepts that have the power to improve the world. To realise this vision, I understand that I must propel myself forward, refining my skills, expanding my knowledge, and amassing invaluable experience. To help me in this endeavour, I want to double-option (double-major) in CalTech's Mechanical Engineering and Computer Science programs. I wish to enroll in these programs because they resonate with my values of being not just a learning platform, but also an opportunity to immerse myself in a culture that prides itself on pushing boundaries. The hands-on approach at CalTech, brimming with prototyping, research, problem-solving, and the atmosphere of a changemaker's mindset, will empower me to devise solutions that extend beyond our boundaries, thereby helping me to push myself towards tackling the world's unique, unsolved issues.

STEM Rabbit Hole

Starting my National Service, I felt disheartened about leaving behind the STEM-rich environment of school and extracurriculars that fueled my curiosity. However, I soon became captivated by the military machines surrounding me—the "tonner" trucks, assault rifles, machine guns, reconnaissance drones, armored vehicles, grenade launchers, and more. These gadgets became my new rabbit hole, offering a unique fusion of engineering and functionality to explore.

What began as curiosity quickly evolved into deep research. I studied the workings of vehicle suspensions, the principles of ammunition design, and the ingenious mechanics of automatic weapons. Training sessions became opportunities to examine moving parts up close, turning routine tasks into moments of discovery. This journey even made me a go-to amongst friends for troubleshooting weapon stoppages and maintenance! My unexpected STEM adventure, blending technical understanding with hands-on learning, now serves my passion for exploration and feeds my hunger for engineering.

STEM Question #1

Robotics is my main passion, future career, and medium to change the world. One of the ways I immerse myself in robotics is as the captain of the DiscoBots Robotics Team. My primary role is to lead our teams through the challenges of our various robotics competitions. And even though numerous other high school teams undertake the same quest, the obstacles we each encounter are exclusively ours to overcome. Each team works within its unique constraints of tools, resources, or group dynamics. Thus, our odyssey entails navigating uncharted territories where triumph isn't just about mastering tasks; it's about unravelling solutions to previously unsolved problems.

Beyond the spectacle of making robots execute functions—be it scoring balls into hoops, scaling monkey bars, ascending poles, or launching frisbees—it's this exploration of uncharted possibilities that beckons me towards developing CAD models, orchestrating 3D printers, delving into programming interfaces, and operating manufacturing tools every day. For me, the allure of robotics lies not merely in executing impressive tasks but in the profound journey of unravelling the unexplored and crafting solutions to novel challenges. Knowing that we are designing, building, or programming through our own unique path fills me with the thrill of curiosity and excitement.

STEM Question #2

Towards the end of my 11th grade, my progress on the RAN invention had already surpassed the limits of our school's machinery and the local library's 3D printer that I had been prototyping from. Realising this, I remembered the ION Prototyping Lab, a makerspace facility I had toured with Mr. Jesse Bounds (courtesy of the Mayor of Houston's office). Through emails, networking efforts, and meetings, I managed to secure an arrangement: access to the IPL's machines in exchange for contributing as an intern. Initially, it was the prospect of using superior equipment that thrilled me, but soon, I discovered a deeper source of gratitude.

My first significant task involved resurrecting a dysfunctional CNC machine for the IPL. Understanding CNCs’ immense value in manufacturing contexts, I eagerly embraced this challenge despite lacking experience with CNC machines. Meanwhile, I also participated in their showcase projects, like their humanoid robot and 3D-printed robotic arm. Tinkering with this new tool and problem-solving with a community of engineers sparked a thirst in me that kept seeking more explorations. This ongoing internship has become one of the most enthralling experiences of my life, constantly sparking my curiosity to learn from a powerful community.

Creativity in Action

Last May, a teacher asked me to help dispose of some plastic dividers. Originally purchased in 2020, the U-shaped COVID-19 tabletop barriers were now collecting dust and occupying storage space. However, the thick, straight, and pristine plastic sheets from which they were made gave me pause from throwing them away immediately. I realised their potential when I remembered the supply-chain-crisis-induced resource shortage in the robotics team. Thus, I ventured onto the idea of turning the former pandemic safety fixture into a new supply of stock material for the robotics team.

My first step was enlisting a friend’s support. While transporting the dividers to the robotics room, his memory of similar dividers in another teacher's storage led to a domino effect of teachers and administrators directing us towards more dividers and other sources of plastic waste like discarded school signboards. Through these collaborative efforts, I eventually founded the 'Screen Salvagers' project, gathering a larger team to further our collections. So far, we have saved over 400 pounds of polymethyl methacrylate (PMMA) and polycarbonate that have found a new life in dozens of our school's past, current, and future engineering projects.

Reflecting on this journey, it's clear that our success stemmed from a ripple effect of collaboration sparked by a meaningful initial innovation: we solved our pandemic-induced material shortages with pandemic-induced material wastage! Recognizing the dual challenges of material waste and supply shortages unexpectedly delivered a win-win solution, forging a novel path of positive impact that is still ongoing today.

MBV Question

"100 rupees! That’s so cheap, it's nothing in the US!" my younger brother exclaimed, oblivious to the insensitivity in his words. On annual trips to India to visit family, I noticed stark disparities. While my brother and I used 3D printers and high-speed internet, my cousins experienced power outages, outdated technologies, and 'traditional' rote memorization-driven schooling.

My brother’s remark reminded me of inequities I’ve faced. In robotics competitions, private-school teams flaunt costly spare parts, while our inner-city public school struggles with limited resources. In debate, wealthier teams have hired mentors, whereas our school depends on volunteers. These disparities, though smaller than systemic societal issues, have shaped my perspective.

These experiences taught me to recognize inequality and admire resilience—like my cousins overcoming limitations or my parents transforming their futures. They also motivated me to act. As captain of the DiscoBots, I initiated outreach to schools without robotics programs, integrating their students into our team. In 1.5 years, we reached 4 schools and ~6,500 students, expanding others' access to the education that shaped me.

I’m grateful for these diverse experiences. Whether through competitions, family connections, or outreach, I’ve gained a broader perspective and embraced the value of shared growth across different backgrounds.

Optional Short Answer Questions

Identity question

When doing my college research, Caltech stood out to me because of this quote on the ‘about’ page: “Nobody at Caltech disappears into their disciplinary pigeonhole—you constantly learn what is new in other fields and share what is exciting in your field…”. This line struck a chord with me because interdisciplinary learning is my forte. Whether in the robotics team, theatre, taekwondo, or more, many of my proudest accomplishments stem from leveraging diverse blends of abilities.

For instance, my Pedal Power community project— a stationary bicycle that charges one’s electronic devices through their own pedalling —required the fusion of scientific concepts, engineering skill, artistic design, computer modelling, persuasive communication, and relationship building that brought the project to fruition. This project, famous in my school for encouraging exercise, demonstrating off-grid power solutions, and raising awareness of electricity wastage, epitomises my belief in tackling substantial challenges through a synthesis of interdisciplinary skills.

When not surveying the stars, peering through microscopes, or running through marathons of coding, Caltech students pursue an eclectic array of interests that range from speed-cubing to participating in varsity athletics to reading romance novels. What is a favorite interest or hobby, and why does it bring you joy? This question can be answered as a written response (up to 100 words).

Training and competing in Taekwondo has evolved into a cherished pursuit for me. As a teenager, I recognize the importance of my physical well-being, adhering to the adage 'healthy body, healthy mind'. Admiring martial artists’ full-body strength and control, I've embraced Taekwondo as my primary sport. The perpetual pursuit of enhancing my speed, power, agility, flexibility, and stamina (and climbing in the ranks of belts) is profoundly gratifying as it signifies my commitment to cultivating a resilient and healthy physique. This journey not only brings me joy but also instils a fundamental habit of self-care that I'm dedicated to upholding.

Short Answer #2

Twice a week, I am captivated by my Rubik's Cube. While I spot patterns, make decisive moves, and solve complex positions, the joys of mastering this puzzle are amplified by shared adventures with my younger brother.

His fascination was piqued when I initially solved the cube in eight minutes, and he begged to learn from "the master".

Since that moment seven years ago, we've embarked on this journey together. As time passed, I turned this into a small business: teaching neighbourhood kids the art of speedcubing while he recruited friends to pay for lessons.

Yet, the heart of speedcubing lies in the pleasure of personal growth. I marvel at competitive

solvers who breeze through within five seconds while my best is only 28.3 seconds. Speedcubing reminds me to savour the journey at my own pace, a source of endless fascination that inspires me to enhance my skills along the way.

Affirmations

By submitting this application, I affirm my understanding of and agreement to the statements found here: http://www.commonapp.org/affirmations.