1. 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.
2. Reflect on something that someone has done for you that has made you happy or thankful in a surprising way. How has this gratitude affected or motivated you?
3. Discuss an accomplishment, event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others.
4. Share an essay on any topic of your choice. It can be one you've already written, one that responds to a different prompt, or one of your own design.

Controlling a class of students ranging from 7 to 18 years old is no easy task, but Master Blazek excels in this role with remarkable skill and finesse. His impressive 4-striped black belt does command respect, but it's his technical expertise, extensive experience, and genuine concern for his students that truly distinguish him. I admire Master Blazek as a role model, not just for his Taekwondo prowess, but for the profound impact he's had on my personal growth.

A few months after I joined the Taekwondo school, I was struggling with a basic sequence of moves, grappling with issues of balance and technique. While the senior instructors merely advised repetition, it was then Junior-Master Blazek who recognized my struggle and approached me with invaluable insights.

Junior-Master Blazek explained my errors in a way that resonated with my sciency mindset. He said, "From a physics standpoint, by turning your shoulders so much during your side-kick, you put your center of gravity too far from your toes." With this relatable explanation, he introduced a simple yet effective routine, asking me to kick a foam helmet he tossed into the air. By throwing it to intentionally exploit my tendency to over-rotate, this exercise helped rewire my muscle memory and significantly improve my balance. Impressed by my progress, he imparted a valuable piece of advice: "In a fight, if someone is too heavy for you, good technique will save you from falling. Even if you don’t fight, the balance and strength it builds will be important." I took his advice to heart and went on to win a Gold Medal in the International Open Taekwondo Poomsae Championships, a testament to the profound impact of Master Blazek's teachings.

Two years later, as Master Blazek earned his 4th-degree black belt (making him officially a Master) and I earned my first black belt, he offered me a unique opportunity to become an junior-instructor, which I eagerly accepted. I was excited to pass on the technical knowledge and experiences I had gained under his guidance.

In one of my early teaching sessions, I observed a younger student named Yash struggling with his taekwondo forms. He executed the sequence of moves with a lack of strength which was sure to reduce his competition scores where "expression of power" is awarded points. I approached Yash, inquiring if he needed assistance in rectifying any shortcomings. Nervously, he admitted that he was uncertain.

Drawing inspiration from Master Blazek’s methods, I began by performing the same sequence of moves with varying degrees of power to illustrate the error effectively. As Yash understood the need for improvement, I saw an old foam helmet in the corner, inspiring a creative teaching exercise.

Holding the helmet in a loose grip, I encouraged Yash to punch it out of my hands. He started with lazy taps, but the novelty of knocking the helmet away and watching me run for it unlocked a new excitement in him. Gradually, he started to launch the helmet across the room. This exercise helped Yash build the confidence and energy necessary to infuse a newfound vigor into his forms.

Asking him to re-do the sequence but with the addition of this power, the immediate results were undeniable, with each move now showcasing a burst of force and energy. Satisfied with his improvement, I emphasized the importance of practicing with power, not just as preparation for potential self-defense, but also as a means to develop strength and agility.

Learning from Master Blazek has been a rewarding experience, and his mentorship has been instrumental in my personal growth. His technical expertise, wisdom, and genuine care have shaped my journey to become a "Master Goyal" in robotics, arts, athletics, communications, and more. I aspire to carry forward a legacy of expertise, wisdom, and selflessness, empowering my peers to tackle extraordinary challenges together.

“Let’s walk around this way” someone says, but I can’t hear them. While all others are on their detour, I am spellbound to 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. A tonal battle-cry echoes as the truck maneuvers backward for its full range of motion, emitting a series of 'beep beep beep' signals. Once in the perfect position, the hydraulic arms spring into action, swinging the massive load over the front, creating 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 the 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.

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 observantly ponder on the foresight the engineers had to make sure 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 that had to make sure 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 of 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 performs as the backbone of essential infrastructure. As I look up to being part of that impactful community, I am also continuously thankful that I have the opportunity to lead in a similar way. 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. I manage 50+ students across 7 separate schools to develop industrial-level, internationally competing robots.

I regularly come across 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 repels the majority of minds, I find myself, again, spellbound by the role of this leader. I swiftly, yet level-headedly, analyze possibilities to proceed on the best path, conquering obstacles, failures, and surprises along the way. Rewardingly, these successes never happen alone, in the same way that garbage trucks don't function without waste containers, and how the whole system doesn't work without landfills. Whether it’s friends, colleagues, acquaintances, or rivals, I recognize the vitality of collaboration and work with all to achieve greater accomplishments.

Additionally, 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 talent 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 talent, a cornerstone of my identity, I hope to create for the world many collections of new, insightful developments, providing others the opportunity of finding their own version of my dump truck.