1. Tell us why you want to join the Honors Program, including what you would bring to the program and what you hope to benefit from the program.
   1. Two days after the Uvalde School Shooting disaster (May 26, 2022), my school, Lamar High School, had a social media school shooting threat.
   2. Even though the police investigated it and found it to be non-credible, many people did not come to school, however I did.
   3. On that day, despite the eire tone of a large fraction of our 4000-student large body not being in school, classes tried to continue as normal.
   4. And it was in this situation that, for the first time, I was able to really expeirrence the power of a small, focused class size.
   5. Throughout my schooling journey, I had only attended large, inner-city public schools where focus to individual learning was limited and student-teacher ratios sizes hovered around 40:1.
   6. In schools like this, positive peer-pressure and motivation from your environment was always towards harm. In such a large school environment with stretched out resources and overburdened teachers, it is easy to be influenced negatively. After all, when there were students getting arrested for drug use and administrators had to even beg students to show up and try on the SAT exam, if I did the bare minimum of just completing assignments and listening to basic rules, I would easily find myself above many thousands of classmates.
   7. However, despite these negative environments, I found myself enjoying school a lot, and maintained a lot of self-motivation to push myself to achieve higher than my surroundings. I put maximum effort into learning new skills, achieving high academics, and developing through extracurricular competitions.
   8. One example of this is through my school’s advanced courses. Despite the low academic standing in my school’s history, I am grateful it offers advanced course options like AP and IB.
   9. I always choose to take as many advanced courses as I can, and excel in learning and and understanding those classes in addition to their exams
   10. Even outside of school, I take on the challenge of working on my own community-service projects, participate fiercely in international competitions, and win various titles and awards at high levels.
   11. From my projects to my competitions, robotics, debate, and many more, I strived to push beyond the restrictions of my environment and achieve many accolades like being the Ambition Accelerator Best Voted Idea, Vex Robotics World Championship qualifier and quest speaker, 2nd ranked debate speaker and Nationals qualifier, and more.
   12. Even though I had great success, I could see the power that high-quality institutions had. The private school debate teams had personal coaches for competitors, the high-resource robotics teams had better parts and tools, the suburban schools gave their students support and funding to create cool projects…
   13. It is for this reason that I want to elevate my potential by joining the Georgia Tech Honors Program. HP’s specialities of focused engagement, project-based explorations, and the formation of a community of high achievers will be a great resource for me to boost my academic and competitive accomplishments.
   14. I Hope to utilize the HP’s smaller, focused classes to learn from the faculty and peers.
   15. I will collaborate with HP students to represent Georgia Tech in high-level competitions
   16. I aim to leverage resources like the Student Challenge Fund to develop more projects that benefit my new Yellow-JAcket Community.
   17. Overall, even after that initial shooting-threat day, my school went through 15 more shooter/intruder/bombing threats and numerous other incidents like fires and major fights. But even through a lackluster environment like this I was able to strive higher and succeed well.

Two days after the tragic Uvalde School Shooting, my school, Lamar High School, faced a social media threat of a similar nature. Although the police deemed it non-credible, many students chose to stay home. I, however, decided to attend school that day. The atmosphere was eerie with our usually bustling campus significantly quieter, but classes continued as normally as possible. This unusual day became a turning point for me, highlighting the potential and impact of smaller, focused class sizes.

Throughout my educational journey, I have attended large, inner-city public schools where the student-teacher ratio often approached 40:1. Such an environment typically limits individualized attention and support. In these settings, the prevalent peer pressure often steered students towards negative behaviors. With resources stretched thin and teachers overwhelmed, achieving even the minimum academic standards seemed significant. Despite this, I have consistently found ways to thrive, driven by an intrinsic motivation to excel.

Even within these constraints, I have maintained a passion for learning and self-improvement. I have pursued advanced courses such as AP and IB classes, excelling not only in understanding the material but also in performing well on the exams. This commitment to academic excellence has been paralleled by my involvement in extracurricular activities. I have participated in various community-service projects and competed fiercely in international competitions, achieving significant accolades. These include being voted Best Idea in the Ambition Accelerator, qualifying for the VEX Robotics World Championship, and earning the title of 2nd ranked debate speaker at Nationals.

My success in these endeavors has underscored the importance of high-quality educational resources. Competing against teams from private schools with personal coaches and robotics teams with superior equipment highlighted the disparities in support and funding. These experiences have fueled my desire to maximize my potential by joining the Georgia Tech Honors Program (HP). The HP’s focus on engagement, project-based explorations, and fostering a community of high achievers aligns perfectly with my goals.

I believe the Georgia Tech Honors Program will provide an environment where I can flourish academically and competitively. The smaller, focused classes will allow me to benefit from closer interactions with faculty and peers, enhancing my learning experience. I look forward to collaborating with fellow HP students to represent Georgia Tech in high-level competitions, leveraging our collective strengths and resources.

Additionally, the Honors Program’s resources, such as the Student Challenge Fund, will enable me to develop projects that benefit both the Georgia Tech community and beyond. I am eager to bring my unique perspective and experiences to the Honors Program, contributing to its vibrant and dynamic community. My background, marked by resilience and a relentless pursuit of excellence despite challenges, has prepared me to thrive in the supportive and intellectually stimulating environment of the Georgia Tech Honors Program.

In conclusion, joining the Georgia Tech Honors Program represents an opportunity to elevate my academic and extracurricular achievements. I am confident that the focused engagement, project-based learning, and high-achieving community will provide the ideal platform for my continued growth and success. I am excited about the possibility of contributing to and benefiting from this exceptional program, and I am eager to take full advantage of the opportunities it offers to realize my full potential.

* 1. Throughout my student-life, I have never recalled an academic setting with a small class size. From my large public school setting in Singapore to my current inner-city public school in Houston where there are almost 4000 students, my class’s size has always been around 40 students to 1 teacher. However, one morning when a bomb-threat against our school spread through social media,
  2. Learned the value of small classes, especially since it already enhanced my habit of making a personal and meaningful connection with my teacher.
     1. If I can thrive in a negative environment like that, then I can do even more cool in a superb environment like HP
        1. Taking the hardest High school program (IB) in the worst environment
  3. In this way, I will also bring my unique perspective to the HP with my international background, experience with overcoming negative environments, and passion for my field to every activity, class and classmate of HP.

Throughout my academic journey, I have always found myself in large classrooms. From my early education in Singapore's bustling public schools to my current inner-city public school in Houston, where nearly 4000 students roam the halls, the student-to-teacher ratio has consistently hovered around 40:1. This environment, while challenging, has shaped me into a resilient and adaptable learner.

One particular incident stands out in my memory. One morning, a bomb threat against our school circulated on social media. The ensuing chaos underscored the impersonal nature of large classrooms. However, it also highlighted the value of small classes, where a personal and meaningful connection with the teacher can foster a sense of safety and community.

Despite these challenges, I have thrived academically. I chose to undertake the International Baccalaureate (IB) program, renowned for its rigor, even in this less-than-ideal environment. This experience has taught me that I can not only survive but excel in adverse circumstances. It has instilled in me a belief that in a nurturing environment like the Georgia Tech Honors Program (HP), I can achieve even greater heights.

I bring to the HP a unique perspective shaped by my international background and experiences. My journey has imbued me with a deep appreciation for diversity and a knack for adapting to new situations. I have learned to turn adversity into opportunity, a skill I believe will be invaluable in the HP's rigorous academic setting.

Moreover, I am passionate about my field of study. This passion, coupled with my resilience and adaptability, will allow me to contribute meaningfully to every activity, class, and interaction within the HP. I look forward to bringing my unique insights to enrich the HP community.

In return, I hope to benefit from the HP's intimate academic setting, which I believe will enhance my learning experience. I am excited about the opportunity to form close relationships with professors and fellow students, and to engage in stimulating intellectual discussions. I am confident that the HP will provide the supportive and challenging environment I need to reach my full potential.

In conclusion, my desire to join the Georgia Tech Honors Program stems from my belief in the power of small, interactive classes and my eagerness to contribute to and learn from the HP community. I am excited about the opportunities the HP offers and look forward to the possibility of being a part of it.

1. The Georgia Tech Honors Program (HP) welcomes students from all majors and backgrounds. Typical HP classes involve significant engagement among students and faculty members, often combining theoretical and hands-on learning from an interdisciplinary perspective. Please tell us about: any previous experiences with this type of learning environment, how you would contribute to this kind of classroom experience, and how you might bring the “HP experience” into other facets of your time at Georgia Tech (e.g., residence hall life, research, internships or co-ops, study abroad, non-HP classes, etc.).
   1. CMU Pedal power essay but change heading to “ often including innovative interdisciplinary and experiential elements” OOWTTE
   2. Very involved after school, so would like to continue in HP
   3. Also very passionate to work with staff
      1. Give supporting story of when I have worked with teachers before.