**Essays**

SECTION 2

Tell us about something that means a lot to you that you've been involved with for a period of time (e.g. several months or years) and what impact this has had on you.   
(You are limited to 1,500 ***characters*** (not words), including spaces.)

I have been playing piano since I was in grade 3. My persistence on piano have taught me the importance of communication with other people, showed me the taste of success, but also the hardship of maintaining commitment over a long period of time. I was interested in piano as early as I can remember, and I have always been fascinated by the beautiful hand movement and the amazing music created. However, the process of practice turned out to be a lot harder, more boring and time consuming than I expected. From this, I have learned to prepare for more than expected, since piano turned out to be much harder than I expected. Throughout these years, there have been multiple instances when I have dropped out of piano. Communication with other people such as my friend and my family helped me avoid quitting piano. When ever I face trouble, they would encourage me and give me power to remain my commitment. I have thus learnt the importance of communication with other people, and the positive benefits that it brings. Now, playing piano is one of my hobbies, and I am proud of this achievement since it gives me the ability to re-produce songs that I like. My experience with piano has demonstrated to me to tasty results that I would obtain after enduring the hardship, thus encourage me to persist on my future activities and not give up. I now use my piano skills to help society out by volunteering to perform at a retirement home every two weeks to cheer up the old people that lives there.

SECTION 3

**Please respond to only one of the following two questions:**   
\* Tell us about a time you failed at something and what you learned from it.   
OR   
\* Tell us about a time of adversity or challenge and how you overcame it. What did you learn from the situation?   
(You are limited to 1,500 ***characters*** (not words), including spaces.)

Life is a bumpy trip, and there are many unavoidable challenges on the way. One of the challenges that I have faced was my lack of skills in presentation and public speaking. When I just came to Canada, I was experiencing problems in my speeches, as I constantly repeat words, lack fluency, and confidence. I overcame this challenge by having an immense amount of practice and getting feedback from other people. I tried to get more practice by preparing speeches and delivering them to a mirror at first, but the effects was small. I then moved on to participate in debate every week. Debate have greatly improved my public speaking skills since I would need to deliver a five- or seven-minute speech with only five minutes to prepare. This gave me fluency, good tone and confidence when I am delivering my speech. Communicating with other people and asking them to judge me on my speech was also important. My friends had made significant contribution in my speaking skills as they have pointed out several of my bad speaking habits, and changing them helped me speak clearer. My public speaking skills built confidence in my daily conversations with other people, and gave me confidence to speak up to people I did not know. Especially since I have just come to Canada, this skill helped me to net work better and make more friends. From this challenge, I learnt that while challenges might seem difficult, they can all be overcame when there is enough effort put into it.

SECTION 4

**Please respond to only one of the following two questions:**   
\* Tell us about a time when you held a strong opinion or position on a topic and then you changed your mind.   
OR   
\* Tell us about a time you received feedback about yourself that was difficult to hear. How did you respond to that feedback?   
(You are limited to 1,500 ***characters*** (not words), including spaces.)

Feedback is very important for improvement, but may often be difficult to hear. This is the case when I received feedback upon my teaching style. I am the head programmer of white oaks secondary school robotics club, and I teach the other members how to code a robot. After one of my lesson, another executive of the club told me that he received many complains from members of how my lesson was boring and too hard to understand. Directly hearing this was discouraging for me, since I was trying my best to teach but still received such negative feed back. I felt defeated at that moment, and showed various signs such as trying to end the conversation quickly and staying alone after the conversation. However, when I gave the feedback a second thought later when I was calmer, I realized that the feedback made a lot of sense. I then decided to directly ask the members for their opinions on my lecture style to receive more feedback. This event has significantly improved my teaching skills, since I am now receiving positive feedback of my lectures. From the improvement of my teaching skills, I have learnt the importance of accepting negative feedback: feedback from other people will provide aspects that still needs to be improved upon. While it may often hurt since it is directly pointing out weaknesses of my skills, I understand that accepting the feedback and working on the weaknesses to turn them into strengths is eventually what will lead me to success.

SECTION 5

Tell us about a time you taught yourself a new skill or idea. How did you go about teaching yourself this new skill or idea and what was the result?   
(You are limited to 1,500 ***characters*** (not words), including spaces.)

Learning a new skill may sound very difficult, but it often turns out to be much simpler than expected. This is the case last summer break, when I taught my self how to design websites. I planned to create a website for the robotics club in my school, but I did not know how to code in html, CSS, Java script nor PHP. I got started by using an app on my phone called solo learn, which taught me the basics of the languages. I then watched some YouTube tutorial to gain a clearer understanding of the language. After a understood the basics, I started to code. At first, my code was full of errors and bugs. While some was easy to fix, I would be scratching my head for hours to try fix some other ones. Online forums such as stack overflow and code project. There are many experienced people on these forums, and can help me debug my program and fix my algorithm problems. I would not have been able to learn how to code without these supportive communities. Another resourceful website is W3schools, since they have a website with detail description of all the functions in the languages that I am learning. I also looked at examples from successful websites such as the home pages of Microsoft and apple to try understand the algorithms they used to improve my algorithms. The first page of the website came out after days of coding and debugging. I was very proud at that moment, of the webpage I created and of the new skill I learnt.

SECTION 6

Every day we come across problems begging for a solution. Recognizing a problem is pretty easy but taking the initiative to resolve it in a meaningful way can be far more difficult.

Please describe a situation when you recognized a problem and personally took initiative to create a solution (even if you had a spectacular failure). The type of problem is less important than the independent initiative that you took to solve it. Please appreciate that problems come in all forms: a blank canvas, an empty musical score, a broken machine, a persistent illness, an unsuccessful team – could all be problems that require an innovative and creative solution.   
(You are limited to 1,500 ***characters*** (not words), including spaces.)

Our lives are constantly surrounded by problems: small ones and big ones. One time which I took incentive in trying too solve a problem is when I realized the lack of media editing skills in my classmates. I found this especially concerning since these skills are really helpful when doing projects for class. To gain a clearer understanding of the situation, I created a pole which asks people for how confident they are of their digital skill. What I found out was that most people were not confident in digital skills, and this is when I started to take action. I had the idea of creating a club to raise awareness of the importance of media skills and educate people about them. I then communicated to some of my classmates who had the skills to teach, and we formed the film and design club. In order to show people the power of digital editing, we created many different posters, and posted them around the school. This turned out to be very successful, since it attracted 257 members to the first meeting. What we are doing now, is delivering lessons every week to teach those who are interested useful skills. So far, we have taught lessons about audio, photo and video editing with professional software, and we have collaboration with the library and many other clubs to further raise awareness of the importance of digital editing skills. This worked well since our latest video was played during the staff meeting, and gain positive recognition from the teachers.

DEMONSTRATION (OPTIONAL)

You can further support your example of personal innovation and creativity in action from the previous section by sharing images, video or audio if necessary. Please provide a link or upload a file following the guidelines below (*your file will upload when you choose one of the save options below*).

Note:

• Indicate if the material is original or from other sources.

• If you have a video or audio file, you are limited to 1 minute maximum. **Do not upload the file; rather, provide a YouTube or hosted link.** (It is recommended that the YouTube link be public and tested to ensure it works.)

• If you are uploading a file, only 1 file can be uploaded here, but the file can have multiple pages (**5 pages maximum**). Avoid large file sizes! We recommend saving in reduced size PDF. There is a 4MB maximum file size limit.

SECTION 7 (OPTIONAL)

Is there anything else you’d like to tell us to support your application for SHAD?   
(You are limited to 1,000 ***characters*** (not words), including spaces.)

I am extremely passionate on technology. When I was young, I was fascinated by how such small chips could be used to do many difficult jobs. I have from them started learning programming. Starting from Binary to python, to C++ and to many other languages. I love applying what I learn into the real world, and thus I started robotics.