**Describe an example of your leadership experience in which you have positively influenced others, helped resolve disputes, or contributed to group efforts over time.**

I have been a member of the cross country team for four years and a captain for two of those years and I have cherished every single year. I am always improving, pushing myself and others, while also staying fit. What I loved the most was the family dynamic that was created on the team of nearly 175 runners. They have provided a foundation for me to keep improving.

I have been top 7 for the last two years and continuously strived to positively influence and lead my team. As a captain, my job consisted of leading stretches, planning team bonding events, taking attendance, answering questions people had, being a good role model, and making sure no one was messing around.

One major event that we had planned was the XC factor, which is an annual show that we would put on in order to raise money for the team. As a captain, we designed the tickets, created the flyers, got the performers, decorated, and hosted the show. My main role was to get all the audio needed for the performers, like karaoke songs and music. One year, I edited a mix for the captains' dance, a dance the captains did for the show. I taught and led the choreography for the captains' dance which was challenging getting everyone to cooperate but with my leadership, I was able to get everyone to cooperate making it the best performance of the show. The day of the show, I directed performers and helped backstage making sure performers was performing at the right time. About 350 people showed up to the show, which raised about $2500 for the team.

At first, it was difficult to lead a massive team, communicating with the other captains, and having a lot of responsibility, but I soon adapted to the leadership role and grew more as a leader. I knew when to take charge and when to let others lead, as I knew everyone's strengths and weakness. Being a captain is one of the many experiences that has made me more confident in my leadership skills.

**What would you say is your greatest talent or skill? How have you developed and demonstrated that talent over time?**

My greatest skills are to learn and stay motivated in anything. If I am really interested and passionate about something, I will stay dedicated and have an overwhelming amount of motivation to improve and get better at it until it is tangible and presentable. I continue to work and think about it until I have reached that goal. This way of learning helped me quickly and adequately improve my efficiency in gathering the resources needed. This skill has come in handy when I was learning how to juggle, solve the Rubix Cube, editing videos and learning a new programming language. I am addicted to learning. I work at it until it is presentable taking practice and perseverance. Sometimes I would feel like giving up but I do not, I keep pushing in order to better myself as a person. When I learn something new it is like adding that skill to my arsenal opening more possibilities into my future.

This skill has been valuable when I was creating my android app. At first, I knew nothing about making an android app but with my skill, I was able to get a working prototype into people's hands in a matter of days. It was not my first time learning something new so I went through the process of learning how to create an app. When I had a question or needed help I used the internet to look up tutorials, forum posts, websites, and study other people's code for references. The question ranged from simple like, how to get the app working on my phone or something more complex like how do you send data across multiple classes. The more I learned the more polish my skills became. I was balancing my school work, social life, and extracellular activities while working on the app but I was determined and confident in my skill.

**Describe how you have taken advantage of a significant educational opportunity or worked to overcome an educational barrier you have faced.**

Being an IT Support Engineer Intern at OSIsoft, my local tech company in San Leandro was an amazing experience that I do not take for granted. OSIsoft was looking for two high schoolers for their internship program, saying that it was a paid internship and would be very competitive. I really wanted this internship, so I applied, made a resume, and prepared for my interview. This was my first interview and it was very competitive with many also applying. I was nervous but after answering many questions, I was able to express the type of person I was, my passions and also got the chance to show the android app that I made.

I was overjoyed when I got the internship and could not wait to start working. On my first day, I was nervous but the atmosphere was friendly and professional, so when I needed help I could ask anyone. I made sure to take advantage of this opportunity, getting as much experience as I can. I worked on many projects, updated the operating system on multiple virtual machines using PowerShell, a scripting software, updated conference room equipment, and created working computers from computer parts. I had weekly meetings where I was assigned to projects and updated on the progress of them. For each project I got assigned, I made sure to carefully listen to what I needed to do in order to effectively and correctly get it finished. By being an IT support, I interacted and supported OSIsoft employees who were having problems with their equipment, like their laptops, monitors, or software, like Skype. When I was unsure of what to do, I asked for help from more experienced employees.

One day, I was assigned a simple but tedious assignment, so instead of doing it by hand, I used Python, a scripting program, to automatic it and increased the productivity of the assignment.

I always made sure to ask why we did something, instead of just mindlessly doing it, because I wanted to understand why we did it so I could provide the best support.

**Think about an academic subject that inspires you. Describe how you have furthered this interest inside and/or outside of the classroom.**

Computer Science inspired me because it made me more creative and open-minded about the various ways of solving problems. In my junior year of high school, I took AP Computer Science A. I had a rough start, but with that struggle, I grew fond of problem-solving and the power I had with programming. The possibilities were endless: I was able to create apps, websites, and games. I knew that this was what I wanted to pursue in my life. After learning the basics of Java, my computer science teacher gave us a semester project and told us to, essentially make whatever you want with a few requirements. I thought of the endless possibilities and decided to make a text-based game. I would always look forward to going to class to work on the project. I would run to class and stay after class to the point that my teacher would ask me to leave. I would download apps on my phone that would teach me more about Java so I could improve on the game. I was learning a lot and would sometimes get confused and lost, but with determination and help from friends and my teacher, I was able to create a functioning game. The more I learned in the class, the more I improved on the game adding more monsters and using more complex code.

The second semester, he assigned a final project that tested on what we learned throughout the whole year, and through the project, I improved my game even more. I furthered my passion for programming more when I made my game into an Android app opening a whole new level of programming. I loved learning because the more I learned the more power I had to make something amazing that others could use and enjoy. I had to look up what software to use and how to use it. I took it one step at a time and soon had a working app. I was proud about what I created with code. Coding is my passion and soon possibly a career.

Stewart Choi

WRI01-54

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Essay 1

When I wrote my personal statements, I wanted to express with great details who I was as a person. What woke me up every day, what motivated my drives, what I wanted to be and who I was. If the college administration did not accept me for who I was as a person then so be it. When I was deciding what college to go too, I did not have much of an opinion. If the weather was not to bad and it was not too far. If the college gave a computer engineering degree, it did not matter where I attended and where I received the degree from. With that in mind I wanted to do my best to express my personality in my personal statements. I wanted to be accepted to a college that would accept me for who I am. When I imaged who would read my personal statements, I thought of college recruiter looking for solid well-rounded students for their college.

Some of the factors that played a role to creating my personal statements were my upper classmen friends. Each one of them we going to college and they had gone through the process of the college application. They helped proofread and revised my personal statements. My friends would say sentences out loud and I would jot down what they say. They helped improve my personal statements to the best they could be. I wouldn’t be where I am without the help of my friends. They have helped prepare me for college.

The process of when I first read the prompts to when I started writing my personal statements was a long one. I first I started by reading all the prompts to see which four I would use. Then after each I would think about what I would write. After choosing which to use I copied and pasted the prompts into google drive. I thought about what I would write for each. I brainstormed by making bullet points for each prompt. This helped me get the general idea of what I would write about. I would think about my strengths, and how I would write it out. I thought about who I was as an individual, my achievements and my experiences as a leader.

My own experience in my writing does bear out Magee’s thinking on the admissions essay as a masculinized genre. I talked a lot about my achievements. I agree with Magee’s thinking on the admissions. I have never thought the admissions essay as way to be masculine or feminine. When I was writing the admissions essay, I just thought about how I would brag about myself and what to brag about.

The critique that personal statements prompt students to focus more on struggles than accomplishments