

## Personal Statement

As a child, I looked up to Albert Einstein as my role model, inspired by his groundbreaking inventions that held the power to transform the world and impact countless lives. His genius and innovations seemed to rival those of a superhero, igniting within me a desire to someday invent something equally impactful.

During my secondary school years, I discovered my aptitude for logical thinking, critical reasoning, and organization. Naturally drawn to subjects like math, physics, and chemistry, I immersed myself in national and international academic competitions, earning several awards along the way. Recognizing my capabilities for technical skills, I was reminded of my childhood aspirations and felt compelled to continue pursuing that dream. Throughout high school, I found immense joy in mentoring STEM subjects to fellow students, organizing free workshops and astronomy courses, and leading outdoor field trips for star gazing and physics experiments. The experiences and knowledge I had from my educational background left me wondering: how could I best combine my scientific abilities with my passion for spreading knowledge to as many young people as possible? The answer became clear: computer science.

As I delved deeper into computer science, I realized the potential for it to align perfectly with my strengths in logical thinking and my desire to disseminate knowledge through online platforms. Now, as I embark on this journey, the VURF program presents itself as a valuable opportunity to further explore my interests and solidify my specialization. Having spent nearly a year as a research assistant in NLP, I've come to truly appreciate the field's blend of creativity and resourcefulness, particularly in my collaboration with Dr. Nwafor. Assigned with tasks that demanded ingenuity and determination, I found fulfillment in overcoming challenges and meeting the professor's expectations.

With the current research proposal, I eagerly anticipate continuing the work I've been immersed in since May 2023, contributing to a project poised to yield tangible results. Additionally, this research offers me the chance to delve deeper into the field of NLP and assess its potential as a future career path. Whether it's pursuing a PhD in NLP or other machine learning fields or entering the industry with a specialization in machine learning, particularly NLP, this opportunity promises to shape my professional trajectory in profound ways.