Yale University Essay

Why do these areas appeal to you? (up to approximately 100 words).

I am interested in many areas of study. I also love to connect ideas and think about things from different perspectives, so interdisciplinary majors are my favorite. I discovered this summer that I am very interested in the study of the human mind--it’s so meta! I also have loved coding in my Computer Science classes in middle school and high school. Problem solving and debugging a tough piece of code is so satisfying. Combining that with how computers affect people psychologically sounds fascinating.

Why does Yale appeal to you? (100 words or less)

I love the spirit of community that I sense from Yale. The idea of the residential colleges creating strong, bonded groups of friends is very appealing to me. In addition, I love the idea of the shopping period. I consider myself a nerd. I am very passionate about a lot of different topics, and I sometimes struggle making decisions. I would love to be able to test out many different classes before narrowing my schedule down. I think Yale seems like a beautiful community in which to live, with good values about living and learning.

**Short Takes**

Please respond in just a few words (no more than 50 characters) to each of the questions below:

1.The two qualities I most admire in other people are

kindness and selflessness

2. I am most proud of

my nerdiness-curiosity and zest for learning

3. I couldn't live without

volleyball-I love it and it encourages me to grow

4. Who or what inspires you?

my mom-getting back into the workforce as a coder

5. What do you wish you were better at being or doing?

Confrontation-choosing battles (instead of none)

6. Most Yale freshmen live in suites of four to six students. What would you contribute to the dynamic of your suite?

bring people together-“suite mom”, empathy, books

Please **reflect** on something you would like us to know about you that we might not learn from the rest of your application, or on something about which you would like to say more. You may write about anything—from personal experiences or goals to interests or intellectual pursuits. (Please answer in 500 words or fewer). We encourage you to visit <http://admissions.yale.edu/essay>, where you will find helpful advice.

The world I come from may not exist.

I sank into my bed as tears streamed down my cheeks. Gripping *1984* tightly against me, I brooded about the problem again. When I came upon the concept of solipsism in the book, I asked my mom the meaning. Her explanation caused my world to come crashing down around my ears, with no way to refute it. "But I see the world; I see you! I know it exists. It has to."

I heard the futility of my logic, and it frustrated me beyond belief. The idea that I could be alone in the world alarmed me. Even having the conversation with another person is like a living paradox.

No one that I talked to could relieve my distress over this issue, and it consumed my thoughts until I had a realization. While this possibility could be true, there would be no way to know. Maybe if the world feels real for my entire existence, it is. Regardless of whether the universe is completely manufactured by my senses and all that exists is my mind floating in space, my experiences are real to me. Until I find out otherwise, I will proceed as if my concept of life is intact.

Such a philosophical crisis of identity and being is as consuming and pertinent for me as any other crisis. I need to understand how these ideas work and relate to my life. Deeply considering a concept, even when there’s no solution, helps me to feel engaged and connected in the world.

In my life, learning is not only central, but also fun. I enjoy arguments with my class about what a chair is, that continue after class ends, or learning about the Singularity and wanting to understand all aspects to be prepared. My mom will discuss philosophy with me late into the night, and my dad will elaborate on my queries about inflation. We get excited about the workings of the world and revel in the experience of unanswered questions. My goal is to attain that experience as much as possible, to have more revelations such as this journey into solipsism.

The world I come from may not exist, but I can still take part in it and enjoy the ride.