1. **What have you done to make your school or your community a better place?**

“46th email sent,” I bubbled a sigh as I journeyed on pioneering a student-led club, an aspect of my school which has never existed and imagined by its students.

Being part of the student council committee for over five out of the six years that I will be in secondary school, I have grown to understand its bureaucracy inside out. As part of the IB curriculum, the school was always one to plan out our service component. This sort of spoon-feeding saddens me because I know of passionate students out there who would have loved to partake in the planning stage of these types of events.

Coming out of a yearning to serve these students justice, I drafted my ambitious yet carefully-crafted plan: the ‘Service Exploration Club.’ With its main purpose of evoking students’ critical thinking through the proactive act of curating their own personal service projects, we aim to be home base for not only academic tutoring but also potentially sub-clubs slash interest groups – all initiated by students, for students.

Yet as I zoomed out of the interwoven brainstorm in my head, the thought of “just another kid trying to meddle with the school’s system” lurked my mind. Going through multiple rounds of meetings and approvals from both teachers and the school’s board while still staying on top of past papers and rigorous revision materials was tough as I entered my senior year. However, I knew it would be a milestone to remember as I opened my 47th email with a content heart.

Integrated into the school’s departments, the club gradually shifted students’ paradigm in line with the school’s humanistic philosophy. We started off with a little over twenty participants spanning across all grade levels, co-creating service events such as joint seminars with various student-led organizations around the Greater Jakarta area, English tutoring services for less fortunate students as well as developing campaigns revolving around the current theme of mental health.

It brings me joy to see the teacher-student hierarchy flattening as the Service Exploration Club hopes to continue maintain in the foreseeable future with its new successors.

*Hi Darren!*

*Thoroughly enjoyed your content and am glad to see some concrete instances with which you wrote about your journey of starting the Service Exploration Club. I believe it took a lot of dedication and the spirit of not giving up easily to be able to stand up for what you believe in all the while curating a solid solution for your school community. A standing applause for that!*

*As you can see, I have modified most of the sentence order to add a little more spice to the storytelling aspect of this piece. But of course feel free to make further edits if you feel that it’ll match your writing style a bit more. Overall a solid essay, keep up the good work!*

*- Matthew*