**3. What would you say is your greatest talent or skill? How have you developed and demonstrated that talent over time? (350 words)**

The dynamic and harmonious melody produced from the 88 black and white tuts as they are pressed with bent fingers at certain tempos; I still vividly remember my first piano lesson 12 years ago and how I, as a brat, never had a reason to play the piano. However, I beg to differ now upon realizing the positive effects my piano had on my parents.

When I started, I felt it was just another mundane, once-a-week routine that my parents had forcefully enrolled me in. I kept on with this for four years until, one day, I realized that my piano was somehow able to make my parents’ tired expression from work into one that is fresh and relaxed. This moment slowly became my driving force to continue playing the piano with more motivation.

Since then, I vowed to work harder in piano as I asked my mom for more piano lessons. As I got better and was able to play Chopin’s “Minute Waltz” fluently, my teacher encouraged me to participate in a national competition. It was terrifying considering this was my first big competition, but my loss was worth the experience as I got to witness other talented pianists.

To further improve my skill, I then volunteered to play the piano in my church’s worship band. Here, instead of a soloist, I became a part of a band where I learned music collaboration by being able to adjust my tempo with the band so that the music sounded harmonious. Moreover, this experience enables me to develop my perfect pitch as well as expand my piano genres from classical to gospel and jazz.

My motivation to help my parents sway away their work stress has become very meaningful to my life so far. Not only was I able to see the happy faces of my parents as they listened to my piano, but I was also able to continue to improve my skills as both a soloist and accompanist. Had my parents not enrolled me to my first piano lessons, I wouldn't be having the harmonious life that I have now.

Hi Darren,

As a reader, I do get that you’re highlighting your talent of playing the piano. However, I feel that you could emphasize on it more to show more confidence that piano is your greatest talent/skill.

On the other hand, good job in describing how you’ve developed and demonstrated your talent over time in detail!

All the best!