**Penn State Personal Statement**

*Please tell us something about yourself, your experiences, or activities that you believe would reflect positively on your ability to succeed at Penn State. This is your opportunity to tell us something about yourself that is not already reflected in your application or academic records. We suggest a limit of 500 words or fewer.*

Childlike is what most of my friends would describe me as. Though some might take offense to this, I take pride in my childlike personality. ‘Childlike’ to me is not immaturity or cluelessness, but curiosity, contentment, and, most importantly, eagerness to learn. Whether it’s solving the Rubik's cube, picking a lock, or jumping on a pogo stick, acquiring new skills has always been a favored pastime of mine and this interest extended to the world of design.

My childlike personality emerged in middle school through hanging out with a 3-year-old kid: Michael. As a toddler who hadn’t yet been exposed to the reality of life, Michael approached everything with enthusiasm and imagination. Every Thursday, as we ventured through the vast land of pirate ships and ball pits, I got to see the world through a child’s eye and this allowed me a new perspective on life: every failure no longer became a defeat, but rather an opportunity to learn. Now, as a highschool student, I still try to approach everything with this mindset in order to not only build my curiosity and continue learning, but also to do so with a smile on my face.

I took this new outlook with me to my first internship at a local start-up: SKITCHEN. I took every chance I had to learn more about this new world. To my surprise, a few months after my internship, the CEO of SKITCHEN personally messaged me to thank me for the effort I put into creating the packaging. She told me that product sales have shown a significant month-to-month growth due to the recent launch of my packaging. Her words of confirmation were what further assured me that I was walking down the right path.

I then decided to explore and aspired to start something of my own. I noticed a lot of my seniors were struggling with their personal projects, which inspired me to launch ALLINCUBATOR to help students like them.

Through ALLINCUBATOR, I aimed to help students, who were just starting their projects, create eye-catching designs to establish their brand image and share their projects on a common platform, thus, allowing them to support each others’ projects. A few months after launch, ALLINCUBATOR got adopted by a local education start-up: ALL-IN EDUSPACE, and the project got a lot more exposure while I still had involvement behind its day-to-day operations.

As a Graphic Design major at Penn State, I understand a whole lot of grit and creativity is required. My encounter with Michael and my experience with SKITCHEN and ALLINCUBATOR has taught me to be curious, to love learning, and to step up and help find solutions to common problems, all of which are qualities I believe will help me succeed in Penn State. And WHEN I graduate from Penn State, I plan to bring ALLINCUBATOR into the working world and help increase Indonesian start-up companies’ success rate, improve employment rate, increase the country’s GDP, and thus contribute to improving Indonesia’s economy.

Hi Helena,

Your essay is looking great so far in showing the qualities that indicate how you would become successful at Penn State University. I like that this trait of yours revolve around being curious, which you describe as childlike. The development of this trait is clearly established through anecdotes and short stories, which really grab the reader’s attention. However, this theme doesn’t follow consistently towards the second half of the essay, in which you described your experience in internships and making your own start up. Despite being a great way to display your accomplishments, it doesn’t retain the overall theme of being curious, but more of just an explanation of what you did. The second half of the essay could be much more effective in delivering the message if you tie everything back to the theme of curiosity that you developed from the beginning of the essay to the end. This also applies to the ending. Instead of just saying what your ambitions are with ALLIncubator, you can end it with a note that you’d like to instill curiosity to other people through ALLIncubator etc. This will make the ending of your essay much more consistent to the overall theme of your essay.

This pretty much sums up the comments I have for this essay. I look forward to the development of your application.

* Calysta, ALL-In Eduspace Essay Editor