**UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME**

The University of Notre Dame Writing Section consists of one (1) essay response to a required question and one (1) essay response to a question you select from the options provided. In total, you will write two (2) essay responses. The word count is a maximum of 200 words per essay.

1. **The founder of the Congregation of Holy Cross, Blessed Basil Moreau, wrote, “We shall always place education side by side with instruction; the mind will not be cultivated at the expense of the heart.” How do you hope a Notre Dame education and experience will transform your mind and heart?**

Much of the pertinent literature regarding Western economic policy revolves around interest rate hikes and quantitative easing to address bumps in the market. COVID-19, however, sheds light on the fact that there is no easy way to implement these policies, especially in underdeveloped markets such as Indonesia, which heavily relies on central banks like the Fed and ECB in more mature markets in dictating its economic policy. Simultaneously plagued by significant current account deficit, shrunken growth, and other central banks policy in response to COVID, the Indonesian Central Bank is treading on a precarious line between domestic and international goals, and economic policy no textbook has the fitting answer to.

It is in this regard I seek to pursue Economics in Notre Dame, where resources such as the Wilson Sheehan Lab for Economic Opportunities and the Economics Club will help me capture these economic nuances not available in other universities. I believe that the merits of enrolling into Notre Dame’s undergraduate program are not simply limited to resources that will cultivate the mind, but also the heart, as the lab itself aims to identify programs to help people move out of poverty, an initiative that extends beyond the study of economics itself.

Having started an online platform directory for hard-hit SMEs post-COVID and hosted business seminars around Java to educate local villagers on sustainable waste management, I seek to continue creating tangible social impact through programs at Notre Dame such as their Environmental change initiative. Overall, these are just scope to the multifaceted range of activities I seek to capitalize on as a Domer while nourishing both my soul and mind.

Hey Kenji!

This is a good start, and I can see that you’ve done some research on economics and its social impact in Indonesia.

To make this essay even stronger, focus on the mind and heart aspect in very specific ways. This is basically a ‘Why Us’ essay, where you have to **detail how specific courses, professors, programs, and communities** can help grow both your academic excellence and sense of social responsibility.

Please provide a response to ONE (1) of the following questions:

1. **What would you fight for?**

​​Respect for human rights is not yet the norm in Indonesia, and fighting for basic rights remains a steep challenge for many. This is especially true with regards to our freedom of speech, where in light of recent events—imprisonment of Jakarta Governor Ahok for blasphemy and the conviction of West Papuans who petitioned to discuss an independence referendum—point to the urgency of free speech in bringing about essential change and a renewed perspective on certain issues.

On a much more applicable level, this means standing up to someone who is bullied in a classroom setting or denied solely because of a certain class (whether racial, sexual orientation, etc.). Building a safe environment that aims to value one’s thought, subsequently builds a diverse perspe​​ctive, which I believe as an international student, is the underlying factor to successful reforms on certain social/economic issues. As Nelson Mandela once said, “​​“For to be free is not merely to cast off one's chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others.” As such, a fight for literacy, or education would be impersonal and difficult to necessitate without the freedom of expression of everyone in the room.

Hey Kenji!

Question: Do you have a specific experience where you fought for a cause? I’d include that if that’s available. Otherwise, this works as it is. Maybe change the education and Mandela part because it comes seemingly out of nowhere and dilutes your message on free speech.

**FORDHAM UNIVERSITY**

You may choose to respond to the optional question below.

At Fordham, we expect students to care for and engage with their communities. Please share a specific instance in which you challenged yourself or stepped out of your comfort zone **in order to impact your community** (for example, your family, friend group, high school, or town). Or, share a way you hope to do so at Fordham. (150 words)

Being an Introvert, my life used to be occupied alone or between 3 of my close friends. I was not very fond of interacting with other people, nor am I even good at it. On my end it was suffocating and intimidating, I remember could not even talk to a waiter, ask strangers for directions, or teachers for questions. However, in creating and operating my own non-profit organization, I realize I need to disregard all my socially anxious traits in light of a leadership mentality to represent my team and organization. As Interviewing strangers, requesting or delivering feedback and opinions became a necessity, it forced me to step out of my comfort zone.

Not only does this avoid consequential miscommunication between peers, but it also obtains us a wider range of perspectives and helps build new connections which are applicable in an institute such as Fordham.

Hey Kenji!

I think right now the second part of the question has not been addressed (in yellow highlight). I know 150 words is not a lot of space to work with, so I recommend minimizing aspects that don’t immediately help in answering the question.

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