**USC faculty place an emphasis on interdisciplinary academic opportunities. Describe something outside of your intended academic focus about which you are interested in learning. Max 250 words**

Selected as a GADIS Sampul beauty pageant finalist out of 3000 participants across Indonesia, I am used to talking in interviews and magazines, advocating issues close to my heart like children in poverty. Through my speeches, I invited people to act, which has led to many teenagers starting their own projects to raise funds for child labor together with me. This has opened my eyes about how much people’s decision could be influenced. Hence, the art of understanding people and their decision-making process always captivated me: the world of psychology.

Specifically, what triggered me was when I held a campaign at school to provide children in poverty with better education access. On my first day, I presented a group of random children who live in rural areas through video, resulting in only a few student donations. On the second day, I changed plan to tell the story of just one child and how she couldn’t go to school due to her financial background. Surprisingly, this resulting in three times more amount of student donations. Through this experience, I learned that our audience needs a single character for them to emotionally connect with instead of presenting them with a group of characters. This leaves a deep impression for me and made me realize how actions could be influenced psychologically.

That is why I can’t wait to delve into the world of psychology. Whether it’d be the complexity of our thought processes or comprehend why people act in a certain way to respond to the world around them. At USC, I will use this knowledge to help me better interact with my community, as I could understand their point of view and listen to their struggles, or be their voice to speak up when they lose heart.

Hi! So I understand that your interdisciplinary topic is psychology. But to be honest, I don’t understand how you came into that conclusion even with your beauty pageant speeches. Also, while the education rights and poverty issue sounds good, it made the psychology part more like a detail instead of the focus. This is definitely a great “volunteer” or “passion project” essay but it doesn’t really fit the prompt the way it is now. Try to refocus your essay into psychology and how it’s useful or something you love.