PROMPT: **Write a brief personal statement (approx. 1 single-spaced page). Formatting will be removed, so do not use special characters, italics, or other formatting. Proofread. Be concise. You can choose to address two or more of the following topics in your personal statement - the admission committee uses this statement to better understand you as a person, your academic record, and your interest in Electrical Engineering (EE):**

**- Discuss your academic and personal interests and goals.**

**- Discuss how your personal experiences prepare you to solve problems in diverse teams and for a diverse world.**

**- Discuss any activities/extracurriculars you are particularly committed to (EE-related or not), why you are involved in these activities, and the skills or insights you gained that you will bring into your future work.**

**- Describe any challenges or hardships you have overcome in pursuing your education. For example: serious illness; disability; first generation in your family to attend college; significant financial hardship or responsibilities associated with balancing work, family, and school. Include how you persevered and how the experience(s) impacted yourself or your education.**

**Additionally, please address the following if they are applicable to you:**

**- If you have applied to EE before, please discuss what has changed or improved since your last application.**

**- If you are currently in another major, and intend to switch to EE, please discuss in the essay.**

**- If you plan to complete more than one major, please provide an intellectual or career justification for the double-degree.**

**- If you will take more than 4 years to graduate, please briefly explain why and discuss your plan for graduating efficiently.**

**- If you are post-baccalaureate, why a second Bachelor’s degree is necessary to reach your goal.**

Word Count: 718

The workshop held by Pelita Harapan University introduced me to electrical engineering, which began as the dean presented a chart depicting daily energy consumption in Indonesia. Smartphone-, television-, and electronic device-usage dominated the chart. I could not help but cringe big time at the humongous amounts of energy wasted, be it through systematic inefficiencies or simply heedless, consumptive behaviors. This self-generated crisis is what drove my desire to promote automation as a means of reducing energy consumption in machineries and appliances alike. I constructed a prototype circuit capable of generating 80% less energy than that of which is consumed by electronics with huge batteries.

Last spring, my first-time competing at my college’s hackathon provided me with brand-new skills of innovating coding methods which handed me the first runner-up winner. With my originally-created mobile game called Astride, a 2D platformer whose goal is to shoot down enemy spaceships in space, I implemented complex Python functions from *override init*, *required init* to *struct* and OOP subclasses by utilizing GitHub platform as well as Python-language code. During fall, I completed my engineering internship at PT. Swissplast Industries — a prominent, Indonesian-based plastic producer — which strengthened my coding and engineering skills. My responsibilities there included managing the control panel of the machinery section and coding a C-language program to detect defects on their food plastic wrap product. Getting more and more eager to learn about power- and energy-saving appliances, I started to research about what programs the University of Washington could offer.

When I expressed my interest to a friend attending the University of Washington, he showed me a video of his final project — detailing a low energy-consuming circuit board that functions exactly or even better than a cellphone! I was immediately hooked and decided to research more about the hands-on opportunities offered by UW’s Paul G. Allen School of Electrical and Computer Engineering.

Outside of academics, I am also fully eager in combating unequal distribution in education among the unprivileged Indonesian citizens. Right after I graduated from high school, I formed a team of six volunteers and visited Cuntel Village on the outskirts of the city for a donation program. We completed an entire two-night stay at the village to teach the villagers the alphabet and counting numbers. However, we recognized a destructive wall covered in debris which turned out to be an abandoned half-built school due to a shortage in the government’s financial support. As I immediately pivoted the original plan of donating to volunteer work, I divided the team into two equal groups: one for construction and the other for education. The construction group would focus on building the school, while the other would teach the villagers numbers and the alphabet. Despite our program being impromptu, yet purpose-driven, we successfully educated the villagers and completely renovated the school. Knowing that our perhaps menial yet collaborative effort was well-received with love by the villagers, we pledged to return, only this time knowing it would fulfill my long-term goal of educating unprivileged Indonesians. Hence, by yearning my education in electrical engineering, I pledge to help the unreached areas of Indonesia and provide enough access to the rapid growth in technology. Furthermore, as Leo Victory Allegiance’s Head of Logistics and Event Organizer, I led the club — which consisted of two different member categories: youths and veterans — in various events. Oftentimes during event meetings, the youth members pitched their creative, out-of-the-box ideas, while the veteran members opposed them and preferred the safe, traditional approach. Thus, before deciding on the events, I learned to discuss everyone’s opinions beforehand to avoid any clashing ideas that could lead to a misunderstanding. After this experience, though, I learned that “leading” takes on many forms – including listening to and integrating everyone’s ideas given their different backgrounds, a celebration of diversity in thought. Leadership is not about the pride of a title, nor is it about the power of commanding people. Leadership is empowering others to succeed. The success of one member means that the whole team succeeds, and the job of a leader is to shepherd this process.

With the well-rounded experiences and skills developed inside and outside the classroom, I am ready to tackle the challenges in pursuing my first and foremost Bachelor’s degree in electrical engineering at the University of Washington.

*Hi Michael!*

*You have a lot of interesting experiences that can make you a strong candidate for many top universities! However, this current draft need to be more focused in answering two of the prompts. I recommend answering the following:*

***- Discuss how your personal experiences prepare you to solve problems in diverse teams and for a diverse world.***

***- Discuss any activities/extracurriculars you are particularly committed to (EE-related or not), why you are involved in these activities, and the skills or insights you gained that you will bring into your future work.***

*Your leadership experience with Leo Victory Allegiance can be used to answer the former. Just make sure to emphasize on the diversity of your team members, and how this prepares you to solve problems in the real world. You might also be able to use your hackathon experience for this.*

*On the other hand, your experience at Cuntel Village is well-suited to address the latter. Make sure to expand on your social responsibility as the ‘why you are involved,’ and add a section that discusses the skills or insights you gained.*

*All the best with your application!*

*--Paul*