**Describe how you have taken advantage of a significant educational opportunity or worked to overcome an educational barrier you have faced. (350 words)**

My aspiration is to become a charismatic CEO who’s able to perform under pressure just like my father. I had a long way to go. In front of close friends, I’m confident of my quick and analytical thinking; in public, everything falls apart and I become a vegetable. Determined to “fix” myself, BBSMUN Jakarta was one avenue perfect to initialize my “fixing” process. It’s basically an MUN for BBS students all over Indonesia. It was the perfect opportunity to step out of my comfort zone.

Two months before BBSMUN, I signed up to represent Indonesia in the ASEAN council: the topic was to discuss the technology gap between SEA nations. After hours of research, I decided to revolve my arguments around Indonesia’s bonus demography. Antsy as I was, I sought advice and feedback from my seniors, and asked them to be very critical of my arguments. I bombed the trial discussions the first time around, which was only in front of five people!! Discouraged, one of my senior – a basketball fan – tapped me on my shoulder and said, “You’ll get there, I was worse,” which comforted me. Hours of practice turned to days and eventually to weeks as my confidence grew. 5, 10, and finally 20 people, I got better in public speaking and built up my charisma (at least I felt so).

Upon setting foot to BBS Jakarta, 500 students were definitely on a different level. My nerves got to me until a friend of mine challenged me to a game of tic tac toe to take the burdens off my shoulders. I gained back my confidence and did my best on stage. Unbeknownst to me, in the end, I was awarded the best delegate for my council.

BBSMUN has introduced me to a field where logic is blended with passion and where success is determined by how well you represent a country in front of hundreds. This experience has enabled me to get over my fear of public speaking and gain confidence. It also taught me that charisma could be gained through confidence, which allows one to perform well under pressure. These two-months periods have made me one step closer to who I aspire to be, and I will continue to take the necessary steps to achieve my goal.

Hi Octavio!

I think this is great. I really like how you described your effort through your constant practices. How you were really serious and started practicing in front of different amounts of people – I think this would really show your hard work, seriousness in overcoming a barrier.

Overall, this is awesome. I think you just need to cut a few words, to make the word count. I would suggest rewriting the sentences I highlighted yellow and green more briefly to cut a few words.

A suggestion for the yellow one: “My aspiration is to become a charismatic CEO who’s able to perform under pressure just like my father, yet I lack in public speaking and confidence.”

A suggestion for the green one: Two months before BBSMUN, I started spending hours researching and practicing.

The focus of this prompt would be how you overcome the barrier, all the effort you put – therefore I would suggest to cut from the ones I highlighted yellow and green because they serve as a bridge and context to your progress.

Overall, good job and all the best, Octavio!