**Letter to a future roommate.**

Dear future roommate,

First things first--just a heads up--if you’re ever looking for a midnight snack at some point, you’re free to search my fridge or cabinet for some, but I’m going to warn you beforehand that they’ll mostly be filled with a stash of Oreos and basically all other treats comprised of… Oreos. Oreo yoghurt, Oreo cupcakes, Oreo cereal, yeah you get the picture.

As an Indonesian student who went to a school in Indonesia that was filled with more than 75% international students, I’m accustomed to interacting with people from all different types of cultures. I can tell you that I’ve managed to learn a few words of Korean, Dutch, Japanese, and even Danish from a lot of my friends back home.

I am not a sensitive person, not to confuse that with being ignorant, but I don’t get easily offended so feel free to rant about literally anything! Most people who know me label me as a pretty good listener, so be sure that I will hear you out and provide you with the moral support that I know you’ll need during these upcoming tough periods. If you ever need help with anything, just know that I’m always willing to lend a hand.

You’ll often find me experimenting with new ingredients to suit my personal tastes in face products or reading my favourite books (Harry Potter is one of them by the way, I aspire to be like Hermione Granger)! If you see me wearing earbuds at any point in time, I’m most likely listening to music, whether it’s pop or k-pop. If you ever want to do a music jam session, count me in! But besides that, I’d love to go hiking out together or strolling around campus, or going out to purchase a cup of boba!

I’d also like to assure you that I am quite the opposite of one of those roommates that leave their socks all over the floor and their papers cluttered all over their desks. Being my roommate would mean clean bathrooms and organized desk files. Some of my friends tease me about having an “OCD” for having things neat and clean, but don’t worry, I’m not going to scold you for having a less organized working space!

And I almost forgot about birthdays! You may want to brace yourself for a crazy birthday surprise. If you’re fine with getting splattered with flour and eggs on your birthday in the most surprising locations, then I’m sure your special days on campus will be some of the most memorable ones you’ve ever had. Just saying, I do not bake unless absolutely necessary, but I’d do it for you!

Also, pictures in school hoodies in front of our dorm buildings are an absolute necessity, so get ready for the stream of polaroids I’m about to print especially on the first day!

But besides all that, I hope that we’ll remain in contact even as we’ve both grown old.

Sincerely,

Rachel

Hey! So definitely a good impression, being generous with snacks is a plus point for any roommate. I liked the genuine humor you include while you list your strengths. At the same time though, I feel like listing a lot of strengths (generosity, good listener, organized) also kind of takes away the impact of them. In this case, I think adding a weakness would also be good, not in the sense that you should show your bad side, but maybe you can humor a weakness such as (I have the tendency to blast music in my room so you can come dance with me whenever we’re stressed out!). Because a lot of plus points makes them all look average.

I think the most memorable part of the essay was the last sentence, so definitely keep that. It was a serious tone in the middle of all the humor, so it stood out.

Since this is a personal essay which should completely show your personality, it would be great to see more dimensions. By this I mean, why should your future roommate choose you out of everyone else? What makes you specifically the most demanded roommate among all your friends? What can you do that is different than others? I think the closest thing to this was the birthday or the polaroid paragraph but take it another step further.

Show don’t tell. For example, in the third paragraph instead of saying “my friends say I’m a good listener.. I can hear you out, just ask me for help” show how exactly you’re a good listener. Your comedic tone would even work well with this. Please don’t use any of my examples. E.g. “Once, I listened to my friend talk and accidentally ran into a pole. Well what can I say? I’m committed to her story.”

I’m surprised there’s no mention of the pandemic? E.g. “That’s to say if I’ll meet you soon, especially with the outbreak. I mean, I still want to be careful about our health!” ??