1. Founded in the spirit of exploration and discovery, Johns Hopkins University encourages students to share their perspectives, develop their interests, and pursue new experiences. Use this space to share something you’d like the admissions committee to know about you (your interests, your background, your identity, or your community), and how it has shaped what you want to get out of your college experience at Hopkins. (300-400 words)

Draft Version 3

Everyone always says there is a distinction between “seeing” and “doing.” Growing up in a family that ran a pharmaceutical company, I was accustomed to “seeing” the laboratory and manufacturing processes, but that was all it had been.

As a student within a small city in Indonesia, classes, in general, are composed of studying and stuffing large amounts of theoretical knowledge into our brains. But a trip halfway across the globe to attend a summer program at Johns Hopkins University had opened my eyes to the benefits of learning through actual laboratory experimentation along with others driven by the same interests. I can still recall the first drive through the campus, and how navigating around it initially seemed impossible.

The glass-domed library was my absolute favorite place. Besides receiving free coffee once after an unfortunate coffee-spilling incident, my friends and I loved that whether we wanted a private, cozy, or quiet room, it was all there. Moreover, whenever we did assignments and required extra information, the vast knowledge stored within the library was ready for us.

One of the research projects I had to complete was a gel electrophoresis experiment on a plant sample. Though I had briefly learnt about this concept from my AP Biology textbook, I only understood the basic ideas. I distinctly remember my lab partner and I performing the experiment and discovering that the gel imaging system did not clearly capture our samples.

We had gone up to Professor Jamie with a concerned expression and sought help, but she simply looked at us and asked, “What do you think you should do?” We then realized that there might’ve been a slight error with our pipetting and started over in the entire experiment. We remained even after class ended, but the understanding we gained was worth the effort.

I can assure you that I would now be able to hold a thorough conversation on the topic of DNA extraction and gel electrophoresis. To further show my ability to act on my ideas, I later collaborated with a close friend of mine from the program to create an online blog site called Females BOLD, where I was able to help lead a multinational team in promoting female empowerment and equality. Through Johns Hopkins, I seek to turn curiosities and theoretical knowledge in my head into actual discoveries by the vast research opportunities alongside equally capable and dedicated individuals.