**Think about an academic subject that inspires you. Describe how you have furthered this interest inside and/or outside of the classroom. (350 words)**

Ray Dalio’s “Economic Machine” video sparked my passion for economics. I was fascinated by the interlinkages within the domain: the “cogs and gears” behind an economy. This, I learned in class. What I did not, unfortunately, was the behind-the-scenes: how a government decides which policies to implement and objectives to prioritize when arriving at decisions. Dalio’s video had me imagining the both the power and pressure policymakers deal with. Whether for the better or worse, it really is mind boggling how a single, decisive knock could result in a ripple effect on a country’s economy and linger for years or even decades.

My whole life, shanty towns would backdrop against my house and school gates – the massive disparity a normal sight. Yet it was videos like that of Dalio’s that made me think out of the box and question that normalcy, leading me to dissectingmovement lead for as I was intrigued by fluidity between the cardsin play.

As I am keen on developing the finesse with which a celebrated policymaker masterfully deploys into the battlefield, I took my chance as an intern in a microfinance firm called Amartha, a socially-driven, technological bridge between micropreneurs and lenders. Challenged to curate new schemes to leverage on the company’s current operations, I pitched to increase transparency between lenders and borrowers by allowing lenders to choose where their investment goes.

Indeed, it is not an overnight process to narrow the investment literacy gap among these micropreneurs, let alone the social pyramid base. Yet with a recorded average of 59.5% increase in Amartha’s borrowers’ revenues ever since the start of a partnership, I am proud to have played the smallest of a part in the grand scheme of microcommunity leadership through women empowerment. I truly respect and admire their attempt at balancing profit-making with their social footprint.

Warped back into my classroom chair after a dip into the real world, I feel a mixture of jitters yet fiery excitement as I look forward to pursuing this interconnected passion of mine under a university setting.

Overall comment:

Raissaaaaa, kok makin jelek O.O

Story nya yg bener ah, kok kyk ga ada storyline nyaaa. Skeleton nya yg jelass

1. Nonton Ray Dalio → liat bahwa even the smallest monetary/fiscal policy decision bisa move the needle (be specific)
2. Knowing that, you look at the history to prove such hypothesis kan. Juan peron, Musolini etc → and reveal what new things you learned from ur research? Maybe klo pas nonton Ray Dalio cuma liat that policy decision matters, tapi through history you can also see the logic and thought process behind certain policy making. Ternyata perhaps it’s not pure economic decision. Ternyata itu political play juga maybe?
3. You realized how big of an impact you can contribute as a policymaker -- someone who needs to understand economic theories and also politics. → then u decide to intern at this amartha -- paling ngga u can learn about economical situations of these women or sth kan klo ga salah, and u try to identify trends, issues, etc and make recommendations on policy blah3. Talk about whats your key takeaways here.
4. Baru closing