**Ravi UC Essay Draft**

**Prompt #2**

***Every person has a creative side, and it can be expressed in many ways: problem solving, original and innovative thinking, and artistically, to name a few. Describe how you express your creative side.***

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A picture containing person, water

Description automatically generatedA picture containing cake, table

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**A flawless white-colored structure with sail-like roof-shells by day; a bright-colored giant “sail-shells” of multiple spectrums by night. The exquisite HD show reflected upon them has turned this structure into something organic: a story of our relationship with nature. In this cold, 2017 Sydney winter, I talked to myself, “Flash? No Flash? Night Vision? Just take a shot!” I couldn’t decide which!? So I just Click! Click! And… another Click.**

**This excitement that rushed through my arteries at the “Click!” wasn’t dissimilar from the anticipation of opening a birthday present. The aftereffect of these clicks moved me: a “masterpiece” of a beginner’s luck, a “beauty” of the Sydney Opera House.**

**This is the end of the beginning. The time I began to care about the features of my Sony Alpha 6000 and the “three musketeers”: exposure, ISO, and focus as I took a leap of faith and dove deep into the free content of the internet to up my flair.**

**As I’ve learned the basics, I photo-hunted my metropolitan city of Jakarta filled with “grey” skies, massive skyscrapers, and heavy traffics on my way to and from school. There is something about Jakarta that’s different than other cities. During vacations, I hunted for nature shots, such as beaches, mountains, and forests. This was part of my journey in finding my favorite subjects. In the process, I find it quite interesting how different it is to edit the two subjects: city and nature. When I attempted to edit city shots, there were always unwanted details, such as trash on the street and sewage or smog. Even if I got the best possible city shots, I’d always spend more time editing those than that of nature’s. By my preference, I wanted my city shots to be seamless. I can achieve this by “healing”unwanted detail, color-contrasting subjects, and Voila!**

**With time, I developed a fond relationship with my Sony A6000 allowing me to take better pictures to ease my editing efforts. Photography taught me the meaning of discipline, tenacity, and eventually in taking pride of my creativity and authenticity. I learned that creativity is NOT a talent you’re born with, but a testament of how you can work through challenges that hone your creativity even further.**

***Hi Ravi!***

***Overall a well-thought draft where readers can see the big picture and follow through your piece with ease. With only 350 words max to nail the prompt, I want you to focus on the second half of*** ***the essay and elaborate more on:***

* ***How you got from meticulous spot-editing to embracing imperfection because there’s authenticity and power in your un/less-filtered shots, and***
* ***How photography became your support system in shaping how you view the world/your surroundings back then vs now.***

***I want you to dig deeper and I’m sure that the admissions committee would find it compelling as well. At any rate, keep up the good work and I expect to see an even stronger draft next!***

* ***Matthew***