**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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**Version 8**

**A flawless, white-colored structure with sail-like roof-shells by day; bright-colored giant shells of multiple spectrums by night. The exquisite light show reflected upon them has turned this structure into something organic: a story of mankind’s relationship with nature. On that cold 2017 Sydney winter, I hesitantly moved back and forth, “Flash? No Flash? Just take a shot!” I could not decide which, so I just Click! Click! And… another Click.**

**The ‘*beauty’* of the Sydney Opera House, the ‘*masterpiece’* shot captured through my beginner’s luck and the thrilling sensation from the clicking adrenaline altogether moved me to dive deep into the free content of the internet to up my flair.**

**As I secured the *three musketeers*: Exposure, ISO and Focus on my bag, I would photo-hunt in my metropolitan home capital of Jakarta on my way to and from school. During vacations outside the city, I would take nature shots: beaches, mountains, and forests. An extreme contrast to my usual set of *grey* skies, tall skyscrapers, and heavy traffic, this iterative process of finding my favorite subjects has made me realize a trend.**

**Whenever I attempt to edit city shots, there would always be unwanted details, such as litter on the street or random people in the background. Wanting them to be seamless just like any other shots that I took, I would “heal”unwanted detail and color-contrast subjects. All of this masking may have made me feel accepted by the number of likes and positive comments on my social media pages. Yet deep down, I know that I’ve lost a touch of that magic that made me fall in love with photography in the first place.**

**Over time, I realized that to be able to attach a meaning unique to my name in every image I take neither has to be *clinically clean* nor *naturally raw*. Just like how the geometrically-perfect, sail-like structure of the Opera House was augmented by the almost abstract artistic projection of the light show, I aspire to bring their harmonized souls into my every shot, one that reflects my hardship, tenacity and patience.**

***Hi Ravi!***

***Coming back to this essay of yours, I figured a different direction in your narrative to a journey of finding that yin & yang of hard-on technicality vs the more abstract side of an image’s artistic process. Given the very limited word count, I figure it’d be best to highlight this contrast and how you finally found your balance between the two as you advanced in your photography journey.***

***At any rate, I find this an enjoyable piece. Good job!***

* *Matthew*