**Cornell University Essay Ravi**

*Tell us about what excites you most about Cornell Engineering and/or studying engineering at Cornell University. How do you see yourself becoming a part of the Cornell Engineering community? (650 words)*

Version 2:

*Pollution, Energy, and Traffic; welcome to my world of thoughts.*

*As I dawned upon the red pedestrian light, my vision caught a never-ending swarm of swerving 2- past the 4-wheelers as viscous fumes brushed over me before collected high up by the infamously grey Jakartan sky. Pollution has moved me to be an agent of change.*

*What can I do to make my city better?*

This was when I discovered Environmental Engineering. The study of water systems, fuel efficiency, and clean energy has given me a purpose. Students from this field are embraced to improve sustainability through innovation – rethinking the way we manage and leverage on natural resources.

At Cornell, walking that extra mile means being at the forefront of innovation and research. Cornellians are taught to pursue knowledge with integrity for excellence and purpose whilst respecting the natural environment and engaging with communities that goes beyond Ithaca. The winning research-intensive plus innovation-driven combination is what excites me to read Engineering at Cornell.

How so?

One word: collaboration. Apart from the outstanding co-op, internships, and study abroad opportunities that Cornell offers, what really caught my attention is how Cornell Engineering becomes the melting pot for students, faculty, and corporates alike to collaborate in team-based settings, such as the Cornell Engineering Student Project Teams. This day and age, education only sounds right when engineering students across 14 majors and 20 minors work together in solving a wide range of real-world problems.

The fact that I can gain such exposure from day one at the school is what intrigues me the most. To be able to engage in conversations with experts and fellow students from multiple fields thrills me, let alone being able to iterate my theoretical foundation through a tried-and-tested practical framework. Cooking up great ideas behind the table is one aspect of it; presenting it in front of key stakeholders with a finessed confidence is another – and to be able to have a holistic learning curve with the two is gold.

For instance, Cornell’s *AguaClara* project team has made significant contributions to solve pressing, clean water issues in the world through the research and building of several community-scale, water treatment facilities in countries like Honduras and India. 65,000 people are finally able to receive clean tap water as a result of routine collaboration between engineering students, professors, and experts on wastewater treatment. This indeed is a testament to the breadth and impact with which studying engineering at Cornell go beyond the boundaries of a classroom wall.

Another great example would be Cornell’s *Engineers for a Sustainable World (ESW)* project team. With my current, passion research project on solar panel efficiency, ESW could be the next step to up my comprehension on renewable energy. As members are encouraged to harness their creativity and generate solutions that will translate into physical projects, I am ecstatic to witness fellow students’ manifestations from blueprint to life. The cultural and academic diversity of ESW’s student-based teams is a great indicator as to how I can hopefully be able to contribute to the Cornell Engineering Community.

Lastly, it would be wrong not to address the other elephant in the room: Cornell’s research facilities and faculty formation. The Cornell Atkinson Center for Sustainability provides for collaborative research that suits my interest in solving the intermittency of solar panels’ power output caused by the inconsistent levels of sun-irradiance. This is where studying systems modeling and the optimization to energy and the environment with Associate Professor C. Lindsay Anderson becomes the avenue for constructive criticism.

As my mind warped back to my lovely capital – alerted by the ringing pedestrian light which just turned green – I walked past what was the last streak of sunset, hoping that I can come out of Cornell as one of many purposeful engineers in sustaining the beauty of our planet Earth, one to be enjoyed and celebrated by generations to come.*Hi Ravi!*

*Glad that we manage to go through a relatively long piece of 650… phew!*

*Again, I could see that this essay has quite a number of revisited concepts and phrases which made the entire writing sound a bit redundant – as if you were trying to just max out the word limit. I am glad, however, when you dove a bit deeper with the technical terms closer to the end.*

*Keep on improving and while at it, enjoy the process!*

*- Matthew*