**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)**

When I dissected my first heart four years ago, I learned that the aorta is the thickest blood vessel because it needs to withstand the high pressure needed to transport blood to all our organs. I also discovered that the fiber between atria and ventricles is needed to delay the time between each valve contraction. I was fascinated about how every part of the heart was carefully designed to keep us alive. I am especially interested in our body genetics: how our genes are the building block of our body to the many different enzymes that help in DNA transcription. I am amazed by how hard these small molecules were dictating our bodies.

Due to limited opportunities to further learn about genetics and DNA compositions, I decided to attend the Medical and Life sciences summer school at Cambridge University. I worked in their laboratory and compared DNA with other participants. I discovered about our different locus and which gene expresses our characteristic traits. I also found out about how HIV affects the human body by converting their RNA to DNA to be incorporated into human chromosomes. I was deeply absorbed into this intricate world of biology. I wish to understand the lengths of DNA damage response and why it can’t repair DNA contaminated by its environment.

Additionally, being in a debate team, I developed a passion for criminal injustice. I learned that many innocent people have been wrongfully convicted. I was in disbelief that 375 people who have been convicted as a criminal through non-DNA analysis in the United States have been exonerated through just DNA testing in the past 30 years. I would like to contribute to solving this issue using DNA expertise that I will build as a student at Johns Hopkins University. Taking courses such as AS.020.303 Genetics and AS.020.305 Biochemistry will deepen my understanding of genetics and familiarize myself with genetic markers and how it is used to track the inheritance of a gene. DNA that had been flawed from their surroundings has caused numerous unfair convictions. I would like to work under Professor Marc Greenberg who works on nucleic acid damage and repair, so I can learn how our surroundings affect nucleic acids, the organic substance that makes up our DNA. Further, I would like to use this knowledge to develop a way to restore DNA markers from a damaged DNA.

With the opportunities that JHU offers, I believe that JHU is the right community for me to not only learn more about our body but will also guide me to achieve my dreams of being a forensic scientist.

Hey! So forensics is definitely an interesting subject. You can definitely discuss both criminal justice and biochemistry. The issue that I’m a bit confused with now is what topic or what story are you trying to share? Think of this essay as a “share your story” instead of a “why major.” It’s a plus for you to include the classes you’re interested in taking, but I don’t understand why your background made you chose those classes specifically. I understand that you did a dissection (in high school? Middle school? Wasn’t clear) and then you enjoyed it so you went on to attend summer school, it flows here. However, in the midst of different jargons and theoretical concepts about human RNA and gene characteristics, the reader suddenly learns you’re in the debate team. You didn’t explain why you became even more interested in life sciences, neither did I understand what exactly from this experience made you interested in forensic sciences.

Furthermore, the 375 people conviced in the States is a good fact, but are you planning on working in the States or Indonesia? Because it would be good to make it very clear. Also, you mentioned how people have been wrongfully convicted because of flawed DNA identification, and your solution is to “deepen your understand of genetics.” I think your message is that with more people passionate about research in DNA, there would be less chances of wrongful conviction? But right now, the way it sounds, you’re saying you could help decrease wrongful conviction simply by being an expert, which does not sound very convincing and is a bit vague.

I don’t understand what you **want to get out of your college experience in Johns Hopkins** aside from how you want to take more classes about genetics. Kindly reconsider your content and figure out what specifically you prize from their curriculum or programs.