Everyone belongs to many different communities and/or groups defined by (among other things) shared geography, religion, ethnicity, income, cuisine, interest, race, ideology, or intellectual heritage. Choose one of the communities to which you belong, and describe that community and your place within it. (max 1500 characters)

As an incoming freshman at The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK), I joined my first community: PPIT, an Indonesian Students’ Association in China. Its close-knit community helped me feel comfortable despite the challenges presented during the pandemic. We never physically met in person, but I’ve always felt their presence emotionally. Every night through video calls, our vastly diverse community members would share bits and pieces of our cultures like bizarre foods and unusual local festivals.

Despite our differences in accents and habits, our multicultural community feels like a solid family whenever we e-gather. Because of this, I became so immersed in the diverse Indonesian culture. This moved me to show off our diversity to the world. Thus, I volunteered to lead in marketing PPIT’s e-cultural events in CUHK.

My first task is to understand the CUHK community and how we can penetrate into their minds, which led me to the toxic 996 work culture in China: working from 9 am to 9 pm 6 days a week. Realizing this could be a penetration point, I leveraged Indonesia’s harmonious, chill, and socially-invested work culture. It worked well! Our first media campaign in 2022 was a success, garnering many positive feedback.

The deeper understanding of Indonesian culture through my second family, PPIT, confirmed my aspiration in cultural advocacy. When I transfer to UMich, I will continue to become an advocate not only of Indonesian culture, but also of other cultures.

Hi Shella,

This is a great improvement since your last essay: you gave context to any abbreviations and there is a clearer flow of how you came about the community and what you hope in the future. However, there is still room for improvement to really make this essay as effective and personal as possible. Though you have a clearer flow than the previous essay, this essay lacks you actually showcasing your personality. I know that the direct approach to answering these prompts is just to talk about your community, but what separates a successful applicant and a not-so-successful one is that the successful applicant is able to write their personality into prompts like this. Hence, think of this essay like a story of your life. Tell the AOs what you are thinking and feeling. Show them how much this community means to you and how you mean to your community. This way, you can basically kill two birds with one stone: you tell them your contributions while also showcasing your interesting personality.

This is all I have to say about the essay so far. I look forward to the development of your application.

* Calysta Tesiman, ALL-in Eduspace Essay Editor