**4. Describe how you have taken advantage of a significant educational opportunity or worked to overcome an educational barrier you have faced. (350 words)**

I can’t imagine a life without technology. When I first heard my parents’ old stories about how they had to physically hail cabs for a date or go through 30-minutes traffic just for groceries, I quickly realized the importance of online Apps in making life convenient.

Wanting to learn more about software development, I applied for an internship in a tech startup, McEasy, the summer before senior year. Thrown head first into the lion’s den, I was an inexperienced student working amongst professionals in the industry. Consequently, my lack of skills became a main insecurity of mine. Afraid to show my inexperience, I limited myself in asking for help, thinking that I would be fine.

Boy was I wrong. That mindset quickly became a burden to me after I faced a problem establishing a connection between PostgreSQL and Python. Swallowing up my pride, I asked my colleague for help in which he solved my problem in a blink. It was then I realized that I’ve been going about it the wrong way; that people are there to help you, not bring you down.

From then on, I never skipped out on the opportunity to download their information for myself. The workplace became an extension of school, learning directly from these professionals with years of experience. Every day was a new learning experience for me, even gaining knowledge through normal conservation. Soon, I started to think and code like a seasoned programmer in just a month's time which helped me in completing my task in coding 9 query functions in Python that connected to Postgres.

To this day, I still consider this internship one of the most valuable experiences I've had, as I’m thankful to my colleagues for not only helping me flourish my knowledge in software development, but also helping me be more confident and understand the importance of teamwork.

Seeing how much I’ve enjoyed my experiences in this fast-paced environment, I see myself continuing to pursue my passion in software development in hopes of playing a vital role in developing the next revolutionary App that will better our lives.

Hi Vincent,

This is a great experience to share for this prompt! I feel that you answered kind of both here. You mentioned about the barrier that you have faced, as well as how you’ve taken advantage of the opportunity and experience you had during the internship.

I do feel though that you could expand more on the process to stress it more. Elaborating on the process will illustrate you better and clearer.

All the best!