Why are you **drawn to studying the major** you have selected? Please discuss how **your interests** and related experiences have **influenced your choice**. Specifically, how will an **education from the College** of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALS) and Cornell University **help you achieve your academic goals**? (Please limit your response to 650 words.)

(Write down an interesting hook that shows your interests and passion in the field, and directly answer that such are the reasons why you wanted to pursue the major)

Since I have joined several non-profit organizations in high school (Greenpeace Bandung, ByebyeplasticBags Bandung, and KangPisMan), I gained a lot of understanding from the experiences I have faced, due to this it finally made me take on the major of Environmental and Sustainability.

 In Greenpeace Bandung, a lot of volunteers taught me about the real-life experiences that they have come up against. For example, one of the volunteers went to Kalimantan to warn the coal ships to stop bringing the coal by the sea, as it may harm the sea corals inside the water or joining riots in front of Nestle Jakarta's office to stop using plastic bottles bringing which brings negative feedback for the sea creatures. These people brought me the courage to stand firm on facing reality on saying what is right and what is wrong.

Additionally, joining the *Byebyeplasticbags Bandung* gave me another experiences. It allowed me to bring all my concerns into action. Such as making a cleanup day, making a seminar for young children in local schools about the dangers of plastic, even challenged me to think outside the box on how to warn people in Bandung to stop using plastic.

 Last, KangPisMan organization. Because this is an organization made by the mayor of Bandung, I got the experience to understand the struggle of the social life in Bandung which causes an effect on the environment. Since I was too young, I could only be able to examine the situation. However, only by examining the condition, it taught me a lot of things. For example, I went to a village in Kopo and got to see the root causes of why people kept on littering and causes tremendous flood in the village; after investigating the situation, we finally figured out that it is caused by the less amount of waste disposal and due to that we got to help the people by providing more waste disposal and educating the people to remind them.

Therefore, by joining Cornell College of Agriculture and Life Sciences I want to expand my curiosity towards the root causes of environmental problems in the world and being able to overcome environmental issues that are currently happening today. I believe that Cornell College of Agriculture and Life Sciences can support me in engaging my passion by providing study abroad which allows me to see and understand real-life environmental problems that I have learned in theory. In addition to that, Cornell College of Agriculture and Life Sciences has interesting study courses for the Environmental and Sustainability major. I can learn from different aspects of subjects towards the causes of environmental issues, learning human interactions with how they perceive nature, understanding the historical aspects of human interaction towards the environment, and many more. The courses provided will help me be an open-minded person by teaching me to think about different perspectives on the root causes of environmental problems, not only one. It trains me to have strong critical thinking of making solutions.

Moreover, by joining Cornell University, I could also make connections with new people from different majors by joining the extracurriculars provided by Cornell University. I can join the environmental society club where I can meet people having the same passion and being able to make a change together, joining sports clubs such as the soccer team which I have been enjoying since high school or even music club which I can release my stress feelings towards playing the piano.

**Editor’s comment:**

Hi Andrea!

I can see from your interests, experiences and involvements that you are indeed truly passionate about the environment. You listed down the experiences in each community and it seems that you’ve researched on the courses that Cornell University of Agriculture and Life Sciences provides.

I think you’ve written a great piece and responded well to the prompt.

I have a few suggestions that I think would make it even stronger:

1. **Introduction hook change**

I think you could start by writing off your thoughts when you see environmental problems, or the dream you wish to accomplish, and then directly answering why you are drawn to studying the major.

* + An example to open up the essay could be:

“Why are people so inconsiderate of the environment.

Why wouldn’t they throw trash in its place?

How negatively impacted is the environment because of

humans?

I really want to understand more and do something.”

This would show the urge and desire you have to take part, thus

choosing the major.

1. **Elaborating the related experiences**

I truly think that it’s awesome that you’re so active, and even got the chance to be involved in a local government organization – KangPisMan. I think with these involvements, you could briefly mention your involvement in the different communities (perhaps in 1 paragraph), and choose 1 to elaborate. In that particular community (for example *Byebyeplasticbags Bandung*), you could describe:

* + The experiences (e.g. making a cleanup day, a seminar) briefly
  + How did those experiences affirmed your choice more
    - What was the impact from making a cleanup day? Did it create a greater awareness in you, in regards to illegal dumping for example?
    - What was the impact of the seminar you created to you? How did you feel? (Were you passionate when you saw young children getting educated about this? Did you feel empowered to influence people more in regards to the environment? Did this experience make you even sure that you are called to study Agriculture and Life Science?)

1. **Developing the goals you could achieve through the university**

I think you did great by mentioning what you wanted to expand and understand more. I especially like that you mention about wanting to have strong critical thinking skills. I would like to encourage you to think more of:

* + Academic goals:
    - State what your long-term goals are to show the relationship between what you want to achieve (e.g. building an organization that focuses on a specific issue), thus requiring you to expand you curiosity and understanding of the root causes…
    - The skills you want to achieve (perhaps observation, innovative thinking, awareness) – and why (how it could probably help you in real life, in your involvement in the environmental field).
  + Combine the skills and the long-term goals you want to achieve with the courses the college offer so that it does not seem that you are just listing down the courses they have

This would help show why you think Cornell University would play a big role personally to

you.

1. **Conclusion**

I would suggest that there be a short conclusion that briefly restates the points you have mentioned, emphasizing why then, Cornell University is the place to be.

Overall, I think you have a lot of experiences and reasons as to why you choose the major – which is awesome!

Looking forward to reading the next draft! ☺

Fedora Gracia

All-in Essay Editor