1. Founded in the spirit of exploration and discovery, Johns Hopkins University encourages students to share their perspectives, develop their interests, and pursue new experiences.  
  
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)\*

It is terrifying for a thirteen-year-old to hear that her father has a life-threatening condition. When my father was first diagnosed with a spinal disc herniation, I channeled my fears and worries, dedicating my weekends to research about treatments. Reading about neuroanatomy and the diagnosis itself, it boggled me how easily such a condition could occur. The usage of non-invasive surgeries showed me how sensitive our nervous system was, dawning on me the extent to which it governs our lives, something which drew me in to further explore.

The more I read, the more I got interested in the workings of our neurological system, questioning things I previously wouldn’t notice. What ultimately became my nicotine equivalent was when I came across cognitive neuroscience, more specifically, thought, memory and decision. It made me think, could human thought, the most capricious part of a human being, be bound by the movement of specific ions just as in muscle contraction? I would find the answer to these questions through my further studies in Cognitive Science.

Through attending Hong Kong University’s International Symposium on STEM Education, I learned that to advance in medicine, it is not just enough to understand the science behind medicine, but also to understand the technology that allows it to advance. At Hopkins, I wish to further connect the world of neuroscience and technology in the computational neuroscience concentration. In addition, the Computational Medicine Minor would also allow me to have a deeper connection towards the quantitative aspects of neuroscience, giving me a more multidisciplinary mindset.

The independent research opportunity of Hopkins’ Cognitive Science program would allow me to accomplish my goal of research in my undergraduate studies. I am very interested in becoming part of a lab during my studies, especially the Cognitive Neuroscience Lab with the likes of Professor Michael McCloskey to assist in his research regarding learning and visual perception, which would give me the foundational knowledge as I conduct my independent research on memory and learning. These opportunities would not only allow me to conduct research in state-of-the-art laboratories, also act as a taster as I hope to be part of breakthroughs in the study of neuroscience through professorship.

Highlighting student research, Hopkins’ cross-disciplinary and flexible curriculum will surely give me the support as I go on the journey to discover the answers to the mysteries of the brain.

Hi Valencia!

I think this is great. You shared your background and experience, and explained how that sprouts your interest. You’ve also elaborated well on what you hope to get out of your college experience at Hopkins.

All the best! ☺