1. **Describe how you have taken advantage of a significant educational opportunity or worked to overcome an educational barrier you have faced.**

When I joined my first MUN conference, a sudden spark enlightened my heart. Not only was it beating at an frightful accelerating pace, but for once in my life my heart took over my body. When I spoke my first ever MUN speech, my heart was doing the talking for me. I had completely disregarded the script that I had made, yet I felt suddenly confident and in place when speaking. From that moment on, I knew that this was my passion and that I was determined to explore to the fullest extent possible. But I ran into several walls along the way, the greatest wall would have to be my parents.

My parents did not see this interest of mine as something worth my time, and because of that I had to explore my love for MUN through my own pocket. In full honesty, local conferences weren’t much of a problem, but there was this destination that I was dreaming of attending, Harvard Model Congress Asia 2020. I was fortunate enough to discover that they had a scholarship program, and I was even more fortunate enough to get an opportunity to submit an application after the deadline. While I only had 4 hours to complete it, I put my heart and soul into my keyboard. I let my heart do the talking, while all my body had to do was stay awake at 3.a.m.

When I received the good news, I knew that I had to make the most of it, because it might have been my first and only international MUN conference. I started researching a month before the conference, where everyday I would bring a binder to school and annotate my research whether it’d be during class or at lunch time. Even while on the flight to the conference, I was the only person who still had their seat light on highlighting 3 binders of notes.

At the conference, I made sure to make as many friends as I could. I went to other committees and I introduced myself to as many people as possible. But my greatest achievement there was my decision to participate in the delegate speech competition. When I won this competition, I had the chance to speak in front of more than 2000 international students where I shared my struggle to get here and inspired them to see walls not as obstacles but as a border to find your way around. When I got back at attended local MUNs, people started recognizing me, and told me how they appreciated how I inspired them to find their own way to explore MUN too. The key takeaway for me though was that I found my connection to my heart and I inspired others to do it too.