**Describe how you plan to pursue your academic interests at USC. Please feel free to address your first- and second-choice major selections. (250 word limit)**

Every week for a family gathering, my 7-year-old cousin would get angry for no reason. He seemed to be incapable of controlling his anger; and it prompted me to read various books about children psychology. Despite having a growing interest in psychology, it wasn’t until I  built a project called SafeSpace – a platform where teenagers get to share their personal problems that they don’t feel comfortable sharing even to their closest ones anonymously -- that I made my decision to pursue a career as a child psychologist. One story specifically caught my eye: a female teen shared her perspective on how to help her younger sister who seems to have bipolar disorder. One story that made me realize that mental health not only affects the individual, but also the people around them.

At USC, I intend to study courses that will broaden my fundamental understanding on the basis of human behavior. I am excited to take courses such as Children’s Learning and Cognitive Development and Abnormal Psychology that will build my understanding on the reason behind my cousin’s bad temper disposition. Furthermore, I am intrigued by the vast research opportunities, specifically at the Minds and Development Lab. By working alongside Professor Henrike Moll, I would delve deep into children’s cognitive development. Outside of class, I would like to continue teaching kids with the Teach for Los Angeles. I firmly believe in the importance of education, thus, I want to tutor kids who don’t have the opportunity to learn. After graduating as a Trojan, I look forward to helping my cousin overcome his problems – and other kids who are also facing their issues and beyond.