**What would you say is your greatest talent or skill? How have you developed and demonstrated that talent over time? 250-350 words.**

Entering my first class in kindergarten was a nightmare. I remember reluctantly stepping into the classroom hiding behind my mom and remained silent the entire day. This habit worsened through middle school. Every time my name was called to present something in front of the class, sweat rolled down my forehead. I knew this had to change.

I started training myself to vocalize my thoughts in a group discussion or presentation. I disregarded my inner fear of sounding stupid and focus on getting my points out there. At first, I needed to bring my cue notes to presentation, then slowly I only needed to write down my points in a sticky notes, and finally to no notes at all. I became comfortable with speaking. My classmates even jokingly asked for my help to persuade our teachers to postpone exams. At one point I was the primary spokesperson in class.

I continued to hone my communication and persuasive skills when I joined SanurFM, a radio community and media partner for events across Jakarta, for which I often acted as MC. I would watch YouTube tutorials on how to be a great MC and practice in front of a mirror three hours a day, aiming to strengthen my public speaking skills.

One day, I encouraged myself to join GADIS Sampul, the biggest teen beauty pageant in Indonesia. This young girl who used to hide behind her mom is now able to stand tall on a 30x40m stage and being watched by the whole country. I shared my mission about issues close to my heart like children in poverty through speeches, magazine interviews, and gathered teenagers who shared the same mission, and eventually initiated a couple fundraising projects.

Although I grew up as a shy kid, this whole experience taught me that as long as we put our heart and mind to it, everything can be our greatest strengths. At UC, I will be the supporting pillars in every group I am a part of and be their voice to speak up when they lose heart. I’ve promised to use my ability and voice to positively influence others and will continue doing so with the UC Community.