**Describe how you have taken advantage of a significant educational opportunity or worked to overcome an educational barrier you have faced. (350 words)**

My aspiration is to become a charismatic CEO who’s able to perform under pressure just like my father. I had a long way to go. In front of close friends, I’m confident of my quick and analytical thinking; in public, everything falls apart and I become a vegetable. Determined to “fix” myself, BBSMUN Jakarta was one avenue perfect to initialize my “fixing” process. It’s basically an MUN for BBS students all over Indonesia. It was the perfect opportunity to step out of my comfort zone.

Two months before BBSMUN, I signed up to represent Indonesia in the ASEAN council: the topic was to discuss the technology gap between SEA nations. After hours of research, I decided to revolve my arguments around Indonesia’s bonus demography. Antsy as I was, I sought advice and feedback from my seniors, and asked them to be very critical of my arguments. I bombed the trial discussions the first time around, which was only in front of five people!! Discouraged, one of my senior – a basketball fan – tapped me on my shoulder and said, “You’ll get there, I was worse,” which comforted me. Hours turned to days and eventually to weeks as my confidence grew. 5, 10, and finally 20 people, I got better in public speaking and built up my charisma (at least I felt so).

Upon setting foot to BBS Jakarta, 500 students was definitely on a different level. My nerves got to me when my Jakarta friend saved me. She challenged me to a game of tic tac toe to take the burdens off my shoulders. I gained back my confidence and did my best on stage. Unbeknownst to me, in the end, I was awarded the best delegate for my council.

BBSMUN has introduced me to a field where logic is blended with passion where success is determined by how well you represent a country in front of hundreds. CEOs do this all the time and it has enabled me to get over my fear of public speaking and gain confidence. It also taught me that charisma can be gained through confidence, which allows one to perform well under pressure. These two-months period have made me one step closer to who I aspire to be, and I will continue to take the necessary steps to achieve my goal.