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)

Draft Version 2

Everyone always says there is a distinction between “seeing” and “doing.” Growing up in a family that ran a pharmaceutical company, I was accustomed to “seeing” the laboratory and manufacturing processes, but that was all it had been.

As a student within a small city in Indonesia, classes in general are composed of studying and stuffing large amounts of theoretical knowledge into our brains. A trip halfway across the globe to attend a summer program in Johns Hopkins University had opened my eyes to the benefits of learning through actual laboratory experimentation along with others of the same interests. I can still recall the first drive through the campus, and how it seemed impossible for me to be able to navigate around.

Though the area itself was inviting, it was the activities that made it memorable. It was about spending hours after classes going to cafes, sitting in the lush green fields underneath the shade of the trees, or hanging out in the glass domed library as we ordered our Frappuccino and studied together, sharing our tales with one another.

One of the research projects I had to complete was a gel electrophoresis experiment on a plant sample. Though I had briefly learnt about this concept from my AP Biology textbook, I only understood the basic ideas. I distinctly remember my lab partner and I performing the experiment and discovering about an hour into class time that it did not seem to be working out.

We had gone up to Professor Jamie with a concerned expression and sought help, but she simply looked at us and asked, “What do you think you should do?” My lab partner and I proceeded to work together to trace back our mistakes and start over in the entire experiment. We remained even after class ended, but the understanding we gained was worth the effort.

I’ll assure you that I can now hold a thorough conversation on the topic of DNA extraction and gel electrophoresis. As a further show of acting on my ideas, I later collaborated with a close friend from the program to create an online blog site called Females BOLD, where I helped lead a multinational team in promoting female empowerment and equality. Through Johns Hopkins, I seek to turn curiosities and theoretical knowledge in my head into actual discoveries by the vast research opportunities alongside equally capable and dedicated individuals.