**For applicants to Columbia College, please tell us what from your current and past experiences (either academic or personal) attracts you specifically to the areas of study that you previously noted in the application. (200 words or fewer)\***

Learning to drive was a skill I struggled with. My dad tried to teach me. He is someone who easily panics and wants perfection. As someone who was still getting used to it, I felt that fear of mistakes was hindering me from being able to learn.

However, when I started learning with a driving instructor the experience was different. I was free to explore what felt best for me. There I realized the importance of freedom in education. Freedom in being able to make mistakes and leap forward with huge momentum.

I realized that what should be taught is not the memorization of knowledge, rather the theoretical concepts. The importance of interpreting knowledge and learning how to learn.

Alongside the teaching method, the community is also crucial. Like my driving instructor’s understanding of my situation or how my F45 coach’s cheering me on when I struggled with pull ups. The positive reinforcement is as important as correction.

There, I began to notice the way education intertwines with sociology as it is needed to foster such a supportive learning environment.

Therefore, I value proper education systems that allows students to become “thinkers.” Through the sociology of education, I hope to change the approach taken in teaching to allow people to think beyond “right” and “wrong”.