**USC Essay Ravi**

*Engineering and Computer Science students are sometimes assumed to have personalities with shared traits or characteristics. What is a trait or characteristic you believe you share with other engineering and computer science students and another where you differ? Please tell us about these two traits and why you chose them. (250-word limit)*

I believe all engineering students share one distinctive trait: the ability to think systematically.

When I encounter a problem, I’m no exception. It is a common occurrence for a team to get stuck in a loophole of ideas during the brainstorming and ideation process. To overcome this, it helps to maintain focus by identifying the team’s priorities. Identifying what is important essentially means that we’re trying to stay focused on our objective by avoiding unnecessary details that’ll only bring us down to contemplation land. This trait correlates with engineering students’ mission to maintain or increase efficiency, especially in productive scenarios such as working together in a lab or group discussions.

Much to my faith on priority and efficiency in a team-based setting, I find it quite interesting that my experience in research and collaborative opportunities at school has taught me how to master the art of “make-believe.”

Make-believing essentially allows us to manifest ourselves into something that we’re not. In my case, I used it as a tool to get me through tough challenges in school and in life. I’d often like to think of myself as the “Nikola Tesla” of Electrical Engineers or the “Albert Einstein” of Mathematicians just to ignite the creativity in me. Some may say that this is just a way to build self-confidence, but I think this is more to increase self-intuition where I could stand behind a solution without complete proof of data. This trait differs with engineers’ tendencies to solve a problem until relevant data is acquired, therefore sometimes limiting their ability to move forward.