***USC Essay Ravi***

*USC faculty place an emphasis on interdisciplinary academic opportunities. Describe something outside of your intended academic focus about which you are interested in learning. (250 words)*

As the light turned green, I caught a glimpse of what my city could look like: a place where people could walk calmly on sidewalks and breath fresh air with a smile on their faces. As of now, us Jakartans do not have those privileges yet.

Half of me thought that studying engineering at an exceptional school, like Viterbi, is enough to become a catalyst for environmental change. But my other half sought a great emphasis upon studying public policy.

Over the years, I noticed a significant contrast when travelling to other cities. I was always amazed by the aesthetics of public subways and busy cross-roads in cities like Tokyo and Amsterdam, and found a culture where public regulations co-exist well with day-to-day hustlers. Experiencing such etiquettes inspired me to study how that culture was born and how it could be implemented in Jakarta.

I realized that the study of public policy is more than just practicing writing a new bill. In a sense, a policy maker is very aware of his/her societal problems and face tough barriers to create regulations that could solve said problems. And yet throughout history, they’ve managed to shape a better world for new generations to come.

Although being at the forefront of innovation and research, I lament the fact that engineers sometimes might not even have approval or financial support to do what they do best. This is where a policy maker comes into place, where they’d help increase governmental funding for researching and designing new municipal facilities such as environmentally friendly public transport and refreshing public spaces.

Thankfully, I could learn all that in USC Sol Price of Public Policy.