**Cornell University Essay Ravi**

*Tell us about what excites you most about Cornell Engineering and/or studying engineering at Cornell University. How do you see yourself becoming a part of the Cornell Engineering community? (650 words)*

Version 2:

*Pollution, Energy, and Traffic; welcome to my world of thoughts.*

*As I dawned upon the red pedestrian light, my vision caught a never-ending swarm of swerving 2- past the 4-wheelers as viscous fumes brushed over me before collected high up by the infamously grey Jakartan sky. Pollution has moved me to be an agent of change.*

*What can I do to make my city better?*

This was when I discovered Environmental Engineering. The study of water systems, fuel efficiency, and clean energy has given me a purpose. Students from this field are embraced to improve sustainability through innovation – rethinking the way we manage and leverage on natural resources.

Inevitably, I’ve stumbled upon a rigorous and exciting school that pushes students to do more. At Cornell, doing more means being at the forefront of innovation and research. Cornellians are taught to pursue knowledge with integrity for excellence and purpose whilst respecting the natural environment and engaging with communities that goes beyond Ithaca. Therefore, studying Engineering at Cornell will put me on the right track to study environmental sustainability with research and innovation.

Why am I so sure about that?

One word: collaboration. Apart from the outstanding co-op, internships, and study abroad programs that Cornell offers, what really caught my attention is that Cornell Engineering provides the opportunity for students, faculty, and staff to collaborate in team-based settings, such as the Cornell Engineering Student Project Teams. This program embraces engineering students across 14 majors and 20 minors to work together in solving a wide range of real-world problems.

The fact that a FRESHMEN can access such an exciting program is what intrigues me the most. Because, what I’m primarily excited about working in a team-setting like this is not so much the credit I’ll receive, rather the **soft skills** I’ll harness from interacting with experts from multiple fields and students from multiple majors. Harnessing a soft skill includes learning the ability to communicate ideas. And it is not always easy to do that, especially when trying to solve such an important matter like climate change. So, it’s good to know that undergraduates can participate right away in such team building projects.

Although, I must also emphasize the benefit of receiving a first-class hands-on experience when studying engineering at Cornell. Again, Cornellians are taught to be “purposeful,’’ meaning their understanding from class are always challenged in real world scenarios.

Let’s take Cornell’s *AguaClara* project team for example, where it has made significant contributions to solve pressing clean water issues in the world by researching and building several community-scale water treatment facilities in countries like Honduras and India. 65,000 people are finally able to receive clean tap water as a result of routine collaboration between engineering students, professors, and experts on wastewater treatment. This just shows the breadth and impact of studying engineering at Cornell TRULY goes beyond the boundaries of a classroom wall.

Another great example would be Cornell’s *Engineers for a Sustainable World (ESW)* project team. As I’m doing research about solar panel efficiency, ESW could be the next step to continue my passion in renewable energy. Members are encouraged to not be afraid of providing ideas about sustainability that’ll translate into physical projects. Moreover, the extensiveness of ESW’s student-based teams is a great example of how one could develop his/her soft-skills through the Cornell Engineering Community.

Lastly, it would be wrong not to mention the importance of Cornell’s research facilities and faculty upon my future studies. The Cornell Atkinson Center for Sustainability provides collaborative research that suits my interest in solving the intermittency of solar panels’ power output caused by the inconsistent levels of sun-irradiance. Therefore, studying systems modelling and the optimization to energy and the environment with Associate Professor C. Lindsay Anderson would be a great opportunity for me to expand my knowledge on sustainable energy.

All in all, it’s truly the combination of community-engaged learning and meticulous faculty at Cornell that’ll allow me to grow as a *purposeful* engineer.