**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 4:

*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.

At Cornell, walking that extra mile 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. The winning research-intensive plus innovation-driven combination is what excites me to studying Engineering at Cornell.

How so?

One word: collaboration. Apart from the outstanding co-op, internships, and study abroad opportunities that Cornell offers, what really caught my attention is how Cornell Engineering becomes the melting pot for students, faculty, and corporates alike to collaborate in team-based settings, such as the Cornell Engineering Student Project Teams. This day and age, education only sounds right when engineering students across 14 majors and 20 minors work together in solving a wide range of real-world problems.

The fact that I can gain such exposure from day one at the school is what intrigues me the most. To be able to engage in conversations with experts and fellow students from multiple fields thrills me, let alone being able to iterate my theoretical foundation through a tried-and-tested practical framework. Cooking up great ideas behind the table is one aspect of it; presenting it in front of key stakeholders with a finessed confidence is another – and to be able to have a holistic learning curve with the two is GOLD.

A great example of this holistic learning experience is Cornell’s *AguaClara* project team, which has made significant contributions to solve the world’s pressing, clean water issues in places like Honduras and India. The large-scale community outreach of this project has provoked a raw motivation within me: the idea of assembling and leading *AguaClara’s* first project in Indonesia. Thinking about the possibility to provide an important link for the Cornell Engineering community to access water-vulnerable regions of Indonesia excites me. Aside from collaborating with fellow students and professors, I believe I could help liaise with governmental bodies and/or local non-profits to build water treatment facilities in regions that lack quality infrastructure, such as remote islands near Papua or rural areas just outside of Jakarta.

Although community engagement is mentally rewarding, I’m also looking for an atmosphere where creativity can physically create ground-breaking assets for the environment. The organizational values at Cornell’s *Engineers for a Sustainable World* could help me upgrade my comprehension in renewable energy by interacting with culturally driven students of the same passion.

Lastly, it would be wrong not to address the other elephant in the room: Cornell’s research facilities and faculty formation. The Cornell Atkinson Center for Sustainability provides for collaborative research that suits my interest in solving the intermittency of solar panels’ power output caused by the inconsistent levels of sun-irradiance. This is where studying systems modeling and the optimization to energy and the environment with Associate Professor C. Lindsay Anderson becomes the avenue for constructive criticism.

As my mind warped back to my lovely capital – alerted by the ringing pedestrian light which just turned green – I walked past what was the last streak of sunset, hoping that I can come out of Cornell as one of many purposeful engineers in sustaining the beauty of our planet Earth: one to be enjoyed and celebrated by generations to come.