Please reflect on your experiences and personal development since your last application. (250 word limit.)

events: Winter Camp “deliberate” fiasco → rejection letter → retake SAT in May & June because of dissatisfaction → determine to reapply second time → seek for internship, not fond of Microsoft's lethargy workspace → drop off Tsinghua → found C2 game studio → more preparation for studying abroad

improvement: resistance towards failure, independent decision making(give up the chance for IOI for its dullness compared with studying abroad; give up the chance for internship since too narrow and deep, contradicting my philosophy of diversity), create chances if there's none(apply for intern as an ineligible high schooler, but finally make it possible, also first in history), bravery(drop off Tsinghua and choose studying abroad as the only way out, even with huge need of FA), mature(experience too much flux in the turning of the year)

Although I had deliberately given up the chance of entering national team for IOI, the day I finished my last competition of Olympiad in Informatics was still full of melancholy. I put 3 hours onto a single problem, wanting to solve that hardest problem gracefully as a silent resignation, but no luck owing to inaccurate precision. Anyway, the result was as I planned. The chance of participating IOI should have been luring to me, if I had not wasted 4 months preparing to study abroad. But now, even after receiving rejection letters from dream school, yes, it's you Stanford, I still consider last year's decision wise, for I knew further pursuit in OI was of no benefit for me, except increasing proficiency and repetition, and maybe an international gold; it should not be the destination, but only a mid way of learning and creating, and I have achieved these goals.

But studying abroad is different. It was in fact unthinkable in my area where the gravity of reality was too strong that anything deviated was doomed to hit the ground. But through sparky keyholes, I got to have a glimpse of the outer world, mostly by perusing books of renowned professors. In a flux of events, I found there's a university named Stanford on the west coast in the other face of the Earth, where “the wind of freedom blows”. I knew it was too distant for me, so I let my dream came in advance: I asked a friend who would pass by to bury a bottle with my encoded message under an oak tree. That was junior 3. The next time I found myself closest was three years later, and was rejected naturally because of lack of preparation.

So I decided to take a gap, giving up Tsinghua's offer, which was unfit for me. I enjoyed the freshness for a spared year, free to do anything. I first conceived to do an internship. So I sent tons of emails containing my CV to IT companies although I knew normally high school graduate was ineligible. But through contacts and interviews, I proved my ability and was welcomed by Microsoft Research Asia to take a visit before final decision. However, it disappointed me, since doing research requires one digging extremely deep into a very specific subject, and I did not want to be constrained in a narrow field. So I contacted two other college graduates, and we started a game studio from scratch. In this way, the control of destiny was again in my hand.

It is clear that I've changed much since last application, but I am more glad on parts that haven't swerved, and I hope those will never vary as time goes by.