Question: Describe how you have taken advantage of a significant educational opportunity or worked to overcome an educational barrier you have faced.

Essay Plan:

1. Want to talk about how I overcame an educational barrier

**Barriers:**

1. Being born and raised in the US, I moved to India, away from my parents, to pursue my education in one of the leading boarding schools of India, known for character education and excellence in basic human values
2. Completely new educational system which is very different from the US
3. It was mandatory to take a new language “Vedic Sanskrit” which is one of the most difficult language to learn and I had no prior knowledge of
4. School only allowed 2 hrs. of self-study due to many other mandatory extra-curricular activities (you are tested periodically on Sans; discuss testing system)
5. Adherence to boarding school no internet and electronic device access policy for students did not give me a chance to learn this language online on my own.

**How I overcame the barrier**

1. Overcame the challenge by constantly practicing language in my daily life
   1. Started writing short essays on my own outside of schoolwork
   2. Shared my essays with my teachers for feedback
   3. Started having conversations with teacher in Sanskrit
   4. Taking extra classes on Sanskrit
2. Personal characteristics I called on was hard work, persistency and taking initiative to learn the language which resulted in me topping the school and getting 100% marks in Sanskrit board exam
3. Due to this success, I have become self-learner, confident in learning new things even with limited resources. This experience gave me the confidence to work towards my major by self-learning many computer languages and build Computer Science applications on my own

Paragraphs:

Thesis: Had to restructure my academics in a short period of time with new language, no tutorials or tutors. Given challenge 10,000 miles from home, and dealt with it

1. Challenges, structure of school, etc.
2. How to take on challenges
3. How achieved success
4. (without means of web, I was able to initiate a study plan, implement it properly and achieve success) Relations to CS

A traveler coursing the river of education will not reach the ocean of illumination without overcoming several academic rapids during the journey. When I had to face these rapids 10,000 miles away from home, I was able to initiate an academic strategy, implement it and achieve success while having limited resources.

Being born and raised in the US, I moved to India, away from my parents, to pursue my education in one of the leading boarding schools of India, known for character education and excellence in basic human values . However, shifting to a different high school also meant adjusting to an entirely different educational system, which was more rigorous and challenging. What made the system challenging was the addition of a new language course: Vedic Sanskrit – one of the most difficult languages to learn. Unlike my peers who already had experience on learning the language in their Indian middle school, I had no prior knowledge of the subject at all. Since my boarding school prohibited the use of electronic media, I had no way to learn Sanskrit online.

So how did I sail past these rapids?

I decided to apply this language to my daily life. When I learnt the basics by taking time off break, I would try to tune my thoughts in terms of Sanskrit and write them down. I would look at the surrounding nature and try to encapsulate its beauty by writing short Sanskrit essays. I would then daily share these essays with my teachers and get their constructive feedback. I would even converse with the Sanskrit teachers in Sanskrit, and learn something new every day.

By calling upon my hard work and persistency, I was able to take the initiative of creating this strategy to learn Sanskrit, without the use of online materials and other tutors. At last, I crossed this rapid and topped the entire school in Sanskrit on my 10th grade board exam, with a 100% score.

Due to this success, I have become self-learner, confident in learning new things even with limited resources. This experience gave me the confidence to work towards my CS major by self-learning many computer languages and building different Computer Science applications on my own.