**For most of my life, b**

**Growing up in elementary school I remember our teacher giving us challenge puzzles to solve on Friday afternoons when the day’s work was done.** It was my favorite time of day because it meant we could socialize and play games while also being incredibly mentally stimulated.

**One day our teacher presented us with a puzzle so hard that it hurt my little brain just thinking about it. This puzzle was the Towers of Hanoi. It was my favorite puzzle because I couldn’t find an obvious answer. With such a clear objective and simple rules, it dazzled me with its subtlety and took me a lot of “tinkering” to figure out how to exactly move even a three block set to the other side.** We revisited the game the next week and by this point I allocated such an absorbent amount of time and energy to this problem that I

**Sadly my dreams were crushed right away as I quickly realized that my solution was not going to work, at all. After a little more thinkering, a move that I earlier deemed was a mistake ended up being the inspiration that led to striking gold for the first time. A rush of elation surged through me as I frantically tried out my hunch and vuala, I solved the Towers of Hanoi.**

**Many years later, I find myself faced with the exact same conundrum in college as a challenge problem me and my friends were tackling for fun. In the underbelly of my mind, I remembered that I have seen something very similar to this before but I couldn’t quite place my finger on it. However when working through the problem in Java, insight eventually flooded through and once I got the program to work I realized it was in fact the same thing that I did when I was a child, but only now I was really able to wrap my head around it and understand it at the most fundamental level.**

**That “thinkering” is what I have found I live for. That “thinkering” is what sets the gears in my brain turning and puts me into a problem solving mindset** that I can apply not only to computer science, but to all aspects of my life.

**Taking those minute details and reconstructing them is what** made me realize that I really like doing this and **solidified computer science in my mind. To me, computer science is about the creative yet logical mindset that is needed to draft and develop programs, invent** and innovate **new technologies**, and

{think about things that will better the world and people…..}. **To me it's about using every weapon in your arsenal in ways you haven’t seen before, only to make a new weapon no one has seen before.**

[ I have wayyyy too many lists in this essay. I can replace “... To me, computer science is about the creative yet logical mindset that is needed to draft and develop programs, invent and innovate new technologies…” with “*To me, at its core computer science is about the imaginative yet logical mindset that it demands” ?* What is a better word?].

**This mindset has helped me in a myriad of ways: from being able to analyze a problem or situation to find the best possible solution or approach, breaking down a puzzle to its most basic elements, or even how to better efficiently handle my work and day to day life. I would not have attained this mentality if it wasn’t for the ethos of computer science, and this is the main reason why I will pursue it.**

**Outside of the mindset, one of the major reasons why I gravitate to computer science is the “creation” aspect of it. There is something about turning an idea into reality that makes me salivate about potential opportunities. I consistently ponder about how I can combine all the tools at my disposal to create something that could potentially change the world. It may sound cliche, but it really is the truth in a lot of ways. Much like a painter with his paintbrush, all one really needs is time, ideas, and a computer to make their masterpiece. For me that could be my fashion app that I am currently developing that would help people categorize their wardrobe, build outfits, and plan out their fashion goals. For me that could be analyzing existing data about Chicago and gaining new insights on the average commute of CTA riders each day.**

**Going hand in hand with this, the impact, reachability, and versatility of the field is what also attracts me to it. I absolutely love the fact that the applications and products one can build with computer science has the power to potentially reach millions quickly and have a direct effect in people’s lives.** I grew up in an age where everyone has a computer and a smartphone and I’ve seen how technology has fundamentally shaped society as it is today and the creative ways people have been using it,

**I find that this above all is what draws me towards computer science. Not the fact it is the hot new thing on the block for a while now, not the fact that people deem it as a field where one could build a career from, but for that fact that it can be used to have real impact.**

**Versatility is a major element of computer science that pulls me towards it. I view it as being “flexible” but in the sense that later down the line I can go into any field and have immediate serviceability regardless of if it is something that I have expertise in. Every industry benefits from the power of computer science and the capability it can bring. I can go into the medical field and make a program that helps regulate a patient's breathing or conversely go into personal finance and help people budget and determine trends in their spending. Computer science gives me the flexibility to explore other pathways other than the one that I am studying and working in. It gives me the autonomy of choice.**

**I’ve been talking to a lot of people who are in the space or work in a related field and from their accounts the responsibilities that they have are matters that I am genuinely interested in and see myself doing. I see myself building a framework in which people can easily create and publish their artistic work, developing a platform in which people can sign up for social benefits, or maybe even the next big social media network. These are examples of projects that excites me and where I can utilize my skills to bring about positive change into the world. In the technology industry creativity and collaboration is valued and essential in the workplace. Working as a team is commonplace and I like this type of environment as it reminds me of the classroom. I feel it is the most representative of my personality and where I would like to be later in life.**

**Ultimately, the reason why I am pursuing computer science is for the all the reasons stated above: the intellectual stimulation, versatility, scale, impact, contributing to the making of innovative technology, and the imaginative yet logical mindset essential to success. These reasons and the satisfaction of learning, improving, and accomplishing are what will draw me to computer science for a very, very, long time, if not forever.**

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Damn i really was able to boil it down to 2 pages single space, not bad. Is currently at 1105 words but I can definitely trim it a little bit more. Is my intro a little too long?