**Duke University seeks a talented, engaged student body that embodies the wide range of human experience; we believe that the diversity of our students makes our community stronger. If you'd like to share a perspective you bring or experiences you've had to help us understand you better-perhaps related to a community you belong to or your family or cultural background-we encourage you to do so. Real people are reading your application, and we want to do our best to understand and appreciate the real people applying to Duke.**

# Full Scoliosis - Rev. 1

Five years ago I was diagnosed with scoliosis. The doctor told me I would have to wear a plastic vest around my torso for many years. The vest was a stigma. It was noticeable even under a shirt. It made me feel different. I couldn’t go play outside because the heat would be unbearable. I couldn’t run, play sports, or ride a bike because a fall could hurt me considerably. I didn’t take it well at all. I would start hyperventilating at random times throughout the day.

A year ago, I was able to take it off permanently. It felt weird at first. After years of having worn the vest, not having something pressing on my chest felt liberating, but after a while, I started experiencing strong back pain.

I acknowledge and I am very grateful for the positive effect of those who supported me and helped me cope. My experience with scoliosis made me realize how it feels to be different and misunderstood, and recognize the massive importance of being sensitive to the feelings and circumstances of others.

# Mix - Rev. 1

* Incertidumbre económica. La economía y está ligada al exterior, por lo que desde que tengo 10 sé el valor del dólar. Básicamente rige todo lo que ocurre en el país.
* Desde hace poco sé hacer asado.
* Si no sabés de fútbol, en algunas situaciones uno se siente medio alienado porque es parte la cultura central Argentina. A diferencia de Estados Unidos, donde hay varios deportes predominantes, en Argentina es solo uno.
* La capacidad de ingeniárselas es muy importante, ya que es un paíFTWs complejo, sumamente burocrático, donde cuesta hacer cualquier cosa. Además, está plagado de corrupción, por lo que si uno quiere hacer las cosas bien, se vuelve sumamente difícil.

There are two key factors that I believe will add value to Duke’s diverse student body.

The first is that I grew up in Argentina. One value that it has instilled in me is to be grateful for everything I have. I can eat every day and have a roof to sleep under. The economic situation of our country has trained me to look for cheaper, simpler and more practical situations for the problem I want to solve.

My persistence is another characteristic that has developed as a result of my life here. Argentinian institutions are famously bureaucratic, so dealing with them has taught me persistence.

The second factor is my experience with scoliosis. I was diagnosed with it five years ago, which meant I would have to wear a plastic vest around my torso for many years. It was noticeable even under a shirt. It made me feel different. I couldn’t play outside with my friends, and people who didn’t know me would steer away from me at the sight of the vest. I would start hyperventilating at random times.

A year ago, I was able to take it off permanently due to my efforts at the gym. I acknowledge and I am very grateful for the positive effect of those who supported me and helped me cope. My experience with scoliosis made me realize how it feels to be different and misunderstood, and recognize the massive importance of being sensitive to the feelings and circumstances of others.

# Mix - Rev. 2

There are two key contributions I want to make to Duke’s diverse student body.

The first is the perspective I have developed from growing up in Argentina. Our economy is very dependent on external factors, and cannot sustain itself. This has forced me to strive for cheaper, simpler and more practical solutions for the problems I want to solve such that everyone can benefit from them. I also attribute part of my creativity and persistence to the trials of implementing innovative solutions within extremely bureaucratic Argentine institutions.

Overall, I believe my experience growing up in Argentina has provided me with a unique perspective and problem solving approach.

The second factor is my experience with scoliosis, a condition that forced me to wear a plastic vest around my torso for many years. It was noticeable even under a shirt and made me feel different. I couldn’t play outside with my friends, and people who didn’t know me would steer away in public.

A year ago, I was able to take it off permanently due to my conscientious efforts at the gym. My experience with scoliosis made me realize how it feels to be different and misunderstood, and recognize the extreme importance of sensitivity to the feelings and circumstances of others.

I hope to bring both of these perspectives and experiences to Duke’s campus next year.

# Full Argento - Rev. 1

A key factor I believe will add value to Duke’s diverse student body is my Argentinian background. Besides the typical cultural elements, I have some traits inherent from growing up in my country.

Since I was thirteen, I have known the conversion rate between pesos and dollars. Our economy is very dependent on external factors, and cannot sustain by itself at all. The first thing this has taught me is to be grateful for the situation I find myself in, I am able to eat every day, have a roof to sleep under, and even have the chance to apply to college. The second thing it has taught me is that I should strive for cheaper, simpler and more practical solutions to the problems I want to solve. Everyone should be able to benefit from them.

I consider creativeness and persistence to be two other characteristics I attribute to having grown here. Argentinian institutions are famously bureaucratic and traditional. Having experience with trying to implement innovative solutions has taught me that sometimes one must flip the situation over its head and think of completely different ways to solve or get a round a problem.

Overall, I believe my experience growing up in Argentina provides me with a unique perspective that can provide new viewpoints and solutions for the complex discussions being held at Duke.