**School**: Harvard University

**Prompt**: Briefly, please indicate the most influential factors in your decision to attend your present college (for example, location, cost, size of student body, only option, special program offered, Early Decision plan, etc.)

**Word limit**: Unknown

# Outline

* Financial Aid
* Family
* Small School

# Version 1

I was attracted to Rice’s small student body and tight-knit community. I believed the residential college system would facilitate making new friends and becoming quickly involved with the community, especially as I transitioned between countries, languages, and education systems. I was also attracted to the low student-to-faculty ratio and to the cognitive science major, which combines computer science, neuroscience, philosophy, linguistics, and psychology.

University education in the US is prohibitively expensive for my family, which is affected by Argentina’s economic instability and ridiculously high inflation. Rice offered the best financial package of all the universities where I was accepted and set the terms of my aid so that I could appeal at the beginning of each year with updated information regarding my family’s ever-changing circumstances.

Since I am the first person in my family to come to the US to pursue undergraduate studies, my parents wanted me to have a safety net nearby. An important reason for attending Rice was that my uncle and cousins lived in Houston at the time. My uncle still lives here, but my cousins have moved to the Northeast (one of them is currently attending Harvard Law School).