**School**: Stanford

**Prompt**: Tell us about something that is meaningful to you and why.

**Word limit**: 100 to 250 words

# Alternative

The challenges I have faced are meaningful to me because they have made me who I am.

In third grade, I underwent MRIs, IQ, and puzzle tests, among other evaluations because I cried every day. Over the next five years, I went to a psychologist, a psychiatrist, and an educational psychologist every week until my condition was resolved. Thus, early on I grew a strong sense that problems are a part of life, they are not the final statement about me or my future, and it is entirely possible to carry on and succeed.

Thanks to this mindset, at age 13 I could accept the limitations of wearing a plastic vest imposed by my scoliosis that ruled out running, playing sports, and riding a bike. I was determined to get my back pain under control, so after researching options, I started going to the gym five days a week.

Unfortunately, my spine eventually started pressing into my lungs. I had to undergo spinal fusion surgery, which meant I wouldn’t be able to exercise for a year and would lose flexibility for life. During the first month, I recovered from not moving at all to slowly getting up and walking. Determined to resume normal life, I adopted an intensive swimming routine, and after 10 months I could carry out all daily activities.

I approach life as if the cards I have been dealt are the cards I wanted all along. And I’ve become good at playing with the hand I have.

**Discard Pile**

I have developed a mentality of taking in any obstacle, dealing with it, and then getting on with life.

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# Version 1

José has two children with Down syndrome. When I met him three years ago, he was exhausted from wrestling with Argentina’s health system to get the care his children need. He knew he wasn’t the only parent in this situation with a child with a disability, and he was looking for help to solve this problem.

When I heard his story, I was deeply saddened. I was determined to find a way to ensure that all these families received the treatment they needed and simplify reimbursement, regardless of their geographic location or their socioeconomic situation.

In the two years working with José to develop Reindi, the platform that facilitates access to services for families with children with disabilities, we sat face to face with the CEOs of Argentina’s 3 biggest insurance companies. We interviewed parents like José from all around the country. We went from brainstorming to a functional, concrete app, currently being used by José and his two children, and soon to be tested by ten families, five doctors, and a small insurance firm.

For me, nothing is as fulfilling as building something from scratch and watching how it impacts others. Entrepreneurship is so important to me because I want to connect with people on a deeper level and address their most pressing troubles. The satisfaction this brings me is what I want to feel every day for the rest of my life.

# Version 2 (CHOSEN) Copy MIT Essay