# Stanford Upload File

**Briefly elaborate on one of your extracurricular activities or work or family responsibilities. (50-150 words)**

I work as a developer and project manager for a startup called Reindi. Last January, the CEO reached out to me because of my familiarity with a technology called “blockchain”. The startup is a response to his personal predicament; two of his children are disabled and it has been difficult for him to navigate the network of healthcare insurers, manage health records, and receive reimbursements for treatment. I was touched by his story and decided to join his effort.

Together we outlined a blockchain-based document storage solution and I recruited a team to work on the project. We have since been working hard to bring this solution to life. We have built a platform that allows doctors to send treatment information directly and securely to clinics and to streamline reimbursements and are in talks to become a partner of the national Health Information Bus initiative.

**What is the most significant challenge that society faces today? (50 word limit)**

An artificial intelligence revolution is underway. Just as the industrial revolution replaced manual labor with steam engines, this one will replace our choices with algorithms. We do not understand the ramifications of these changes but must do so to harness them for the common good.

**How did you spend your last two summers? (50 word limit)**

I spent the past two summers developing apps for both fun and profit. In addition, in 2018 I represented Argentina in the International Science Olympiad and brought back a bronze medal. In 2019, I joined a field research team studying the relationship between light intensity and vegetation development in Panama.

**What historical moment or event do you wish you could have witnessed? (50 word limit)**

I wish I could have been at Bletchley Park in the room with Alan Turing when he finally cracked the Enigma Machine code.

**What five words best describe you?**

Curious, creative, resourceful, adaptable, persistent.

**When the choice is yours, what do you read, listen to, or watch? (50 word limit)**

I watch sitcoms on Netflix and HBO for fun, and Explained, a show that discusses social issues. When commuting I rely on Blinkist to hear about ideas regarding business or personal development. I read about tech on Wired and Medium. I listen to country, rap and pop on Spotify.

**Name one thing you are looking forward to experiencing at Stanford. (50 word limit)**

I am looking forward to the combination of an outstanding academic program in computer science with the support and opportunities offered by the Stanford Entrepreneurship Network and its member organizations. I also want to become involved with CS + Social Good and develop projects for nonprofits through its Studio program.

**Imagine you had an extra hour in the day — how would you spend that time? (50 word limit).**

I would learn Chinese or Hebrew because I believe China and Israel will lead breakthroughs in artificial intelligence that will revolutionize our day-to-day life and I would like to contribute to that work.

**The Stanford community is deeply curious and driven to learn in and out of the classroom. Reflect on an idea or experience that makes you genuinely excited about learning. (100 to 250 words)**

While preparing for the Informatic Olympiads in my junior year of high school I discovered an algorithm lecture series online. I binge-watched them until I got stuck on an algorithm designed to uncover differences between texts. In trying to figure it out I came across an article on its application to analyzing DNA sequences of individuals from different species. I was fascinated by the application of this method across disciplines and challenged myself to do the same with the algorithms I was learning. That evening I had an epiphany; one of the topics that I was struggling with the most at school was balancing complicated chemical equations. I wrote a program that applied classic computer science to the balancing problem. I started using it in class and my friends found it very useful. Since that day, I step back at every opportunity and ask myself how what I am studying connects to what I know about computer science and how potential connections may change my understanding of the problem. For example, I am now learning about how the stock market works and I am intrigued by the idea of building an autonomous stock trading program.

**Virtually all of Stanford's undergraduates live on campus. Write a note to your future roommate that reveals something about you or that will help your roommate – and us – get to know you better. (100-250 words)**

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 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.

A few months ago I was offered the possibility of surgery: having a titanium rod attached with bolts to each side of my spine to straighten it. It would alleviate my back pain, but I would lose flexibility for life. I have thought about it long and hard, and I believe it is worth the sacrifice. I am proud to say I will undergo the surgery this February.

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.

**Tell us about something that is meaningful to you and why. (100 to 250 words)**

The time I spent with Juan, my first chemistry teacher, was one of the most meaningful parts of my education. I will always be grateful for his role in developing my character and passion for science. He invited me to an after-class science club at a time when I had other interests. I hesitated, but at his insistence, I gave it a try.

He was different from my other teachers and cared for us on a personal level. I grew close to him and continued attending the club, becoming increasingly interested in science. With his support, I qualified for the International Junior Science Olympiad, but we lost touch because our training took place at a different institution.

When I came back from the Olympiad I was excited to get in touch, share the news about my bronze medal, and thank him for his mentorship. I was devastated to learn that he had just died of a heart attack.

I was consumed by regret at being unable to express my gratitude. When the school put up a plaque in his name, I cried. That piece of metal did not do the impact he had on me justice. In his honor, I restarted the science club, teaching physics, to provide other students with the same opportunity he had given me.