Intro Speech

My name is Ricky Mangerie, and I am a Computer Science major. I am from the suburbs of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania ­– a small area called Beaver County. I went to school in a rather little, 500-something people district. “Bring your tractor to school” day and Trump-ridden pick-up trucks were *definitely* not unheard of. I will admit, it was a *bit* difficult being a little nerdy kid, dressing like a mix of Steve Urkel and Brian from “The Breakfast Club,” in a town where denim-clad people expressed an *extreme* interest for farming and day-drinking. Spending hours coding in study hall was dwindled by the roar of Toby Keith’s “Red Solo Cup” blaring from the speakers of my fellow peers.

Anyway…let’s move on to what *I* am interested in. I have had a passion for technology for a very long time. At a young age, I was fascinated with taking apart computers and learning about different technologies and softwares. I would disassemble my home computer and rebuild it often, which, honestly, did not make my father too happy. I also would tinker with the software on Apple products and see what I would be able to create from it. Since then, my interest in technology has grown substantially. I spend a lot of my free time working on personal technological projects, thus expanding my knowledge in my field.

I am also very interested in the arts. I am currently the Vice President of the Drexel Photography Club and am active in freelance photography. I also play the piano and have been doing so for the past 10 years. When I am not spending hours writing long, intricate code or snapping pics of people, I usually either hang out with my friends or spend hours in bed re-watching Friends and Parks and Recreation while eating copious amounts of pizza and Pringles.

I am very happy with where I am at – attending Drexel, living in Philadelphia, and in my field – and I spend a lot of time combining my knowledge of technology with my interest in the arts. Philadelphia has provided a great outlet for me to gain experience in computer programming, build up my skills in photography, and play the keys like it is nobody’s business. I hope to one day create a cohesive position that will allow me to excel in both the technological and the art world. I am very happy with the choices I have made thus far, and I am excited to see where my multi-faceted interests take me in the future.