Essay #1 prompt.

Everyone belongs to many different communities and/or groups defined by (among other things) shared geography, religion, ethnicity, income, cuisine, interest, race, ideology or intellectual heritage. Choose one of the communities to which you belong and describe that community and your place within it. Max: 300.

I belong to a community of peers who are intellectually curious to learn about various fields, in particular STEM. According to the circumstances, I see my role as a leader, teacher, team player and a collaborator.

For instance, during 2017 to 2019, because of my interests in robotics, I founded a community based First Lego League (FLL) team and recruited four of my peers who were curious to learn more about robots. We designed, built, and coded multiple versions of robots iteratively. We practiced intensely and organized many community outreaches to introduce robotics to younger kids. We also researched about hydro dynamics and outer space instruments as part of FLL themes. During this process we researched about making oxygen in Mars and discussed our ideas with Prof. Hoffman and investigator Dr. Hecht whose device currently produces oxygen in Mars. Our region has 300+ FLL teams. During both 2018 and 2019, our team won the local championship awards and top regional awards at University of Pennsylvania. Through these experiences, I am currently mentoring a junior FLL team. In this instance, I played a role of a leader, teacher, and a team player.

I am humbled and fortunate to be selected in multiple gifted student programs from Johns Hopkins University, University of Pennsylvania and Summer Institute for the Gifted (SIG) programs. During these summer programs, I worked with various intellectually curious students and explored multiple STEM related topics such as Microbiology, Genetics, Problem Solving etc. I loved every moment of working closely as a team with these students. In this instance I consider my part as a strong collaborator.

At my high school, as a member of Chemistry club, Science National Honor Society, and Red Cross club, I closely collaborate with small teams to organize research projects and fund raiser events. Here, I am a leader and a team player.