Tarushv Kosgi

Mr. Jeffrey Bowers

AP English Language & Composition 6

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Share an essay on any topic of your choice. It can be one you've already written, one that

responds to a different prompt, or one of your own design

A Little about a Lot

Barrelling down the highway at 80 mph, sitting in the cramped back seats, 3 hours into a

road trip back to Virginia from Chicago, a "ding" emanates from my phone. Checking the

notification: "Dear Tarushv Kosgi, Congratulations! You are being offered admission to attend

the Academies of Loudoun as a member of the Academy of Science (AOS) program for the 2022

school year." I had considered rejecting the acceptance, electing to instead exclusively attend

Independence High School: "Won't it be difficult? What's the point? I'll take a myriad of AP

courses instead!" My remonstration fell on deaf ears, as my parents were dead set on me

attending the Academies, and soon, I too was convinced by their conviction.

Starting the year as a socially awkward teen straight out of middle school, I quickly

realized I was with like-minded people. As "Gifted" kids, as we had been called, we had been

attending programs like FUTURA and SPECTRUM in elementary and middle school,

respectively. Over time, with my experiences at the Academies, I honed my ability to express

myself through speech, writing, and beyond, shedding my shyness of years past.

Over the years I've attended, there have been many dropouts. Many friends have elected

to leave the Academies, regularly citing the rigor. Starting the year with a cohort of 148 students,

the trimming was certainly noticeable. Empty seats patiently waiting for students, small, quiet classes, such were commonplace. "Survival of the Fittest," some called it. Some peers decided to "stick it out" regardless of the rigor, and I was one of them. I craved this challenge, having found middle school unchallenging. I chose to persevere, driven by a hunger for growth.

Although there have been some ups and downs during my time attending, ACL has unequivocally broadened my horizons, and introduced me to topics and disciplines I would not have explored or known otherwise. For example, a trip to Italy with the Academies taught me valuable lessons about independence, Italian culture, and traveling with peers while remaining safe. Additionally, the integration of Computer Science into STEM subjects, and being allowed to work with the Academies' advanced equipment, such as a Scanning Electron Microscope, micropipettes, etc, allowed me to gain experience using tools not available at traditional home high schools. Apart from equipment, the Academies also provided me with opportunities not found elsewhere, which have undoubtedly helped me hone my aspirations for the future.

My motto "Know at least a little about a lot" defines me. From falling down YouTube rabbit holes or exploring new domains in STEM; I love to learn. Even in 4th grade, I was writing essays or creating presentations in my free time about miscellaneous topics, or I was creating projects on Scratch—from my clunky first project "The awesome adventures [sic]" to advanced scrolling platformers. I was using the platform to its fullest extent. Soon I was introduced to programming languages—and that's where my love for CS began. I dove into research surrounding Computer Science, whether that be about languages, computers, or more recently: AI. Since elementary school, I have wanted a degree in CS, and eventually a Master's and Doctorate.

I relish pursuing novel experiences, as each enriches my understanding of the world. With debugging my first programs across different languages and domains, I glimpsed a future where my code could solve real world problems—perhaps enhancing education or helping people in other domains with use of technology. With my diverse knowledge and experiences—undoubtedly contributed to in some part by the Academies—I am equipped to serve my community and the world in general across various domains, and driven by an insatiable hunger to learn and contribute.