**What is the one thing that you think sets you apart from other candidates applying to the University of California?**

Since the last few years, whenever I discussed higher education with my teachers, I have heard the name of University of California prominently. And I think the reason behind its prominence is the fact that it takes only those students who have something that sets them apart from other students.

What –I think- sets me apart from other candidates is my experience with leadership. Leadership inculcates a sense of accountability in yourself, which turns you into a responsible person. This is what I learnt when I lead my house as the captain. I had to make sure that all my judgments were sound and wouldn’t make my housemates lose their confidence. As a responsible leader, I tried to inculcate discipline among my schoolmates. I was also a part of anti-bullying group formed by us seniors, and stood up for the juniors in need. Popularity is not what I strived for. I strived for helping others. Leadership also taught me the importance of giving back more than my immediate responsibilities, a reason why I teach basic math and science to the kids of a shelter in my locality.

To follow a leader with loyalty is –without a shred of doubt- a very good trait. But becoming a leader and earning the loyalty of others is a tougher and a better thing. And that’s what I tried to do and I think I succeeded.