Please tell us something about yourself, your experiences, or activities that you believe would reflect positively on your ability to succeed at Penn State. This is your opportunity to tell us something about yourself that is not already reflected in your application or academic records. We suggest a limit of 500 words or fewer.

Science and Mathematics have always been my forte, the logic behind these subjects somehow come easy to me and sometimes but very rarely when the topic is tough, it does not intimidate or scare me but on the contrary it intrigues my interest as to why is it complex. Until my 9th standard I had dealt with sciences differently, it was more of theoretical knowledge but my first practical project in Chemistry changed my perception on the subject. It was more than just formulae and elements, it was challenging, thought provoking and fascinating. The way elements react with each other made it interesting, when I worked on my project ***“The Erupting Volcano”***, for the science fair, I found chemistry to be fun and not tedious. The baking soda and vinegar volcano is a chemistry project used to simulate a real volcanic eruption, as an example of an acid, the chemical reaction between baking soda (sodium bicarbonate) and vinegar (acetic acid) produces carbon dioxide gas, which forms bubbles in the dishwashing detergent and the chemicals that are released are non-toxic.

When I was in my 10th standard, my father started manufacturing and supplying ammonia, it was during this time that most of my conversations with my father were about ammonia. I enquired and learnt about the manufacturing process of ammonia gas and ammonia liquid. A lot of ground work went into planning and getting my father’s manufacturing unit ready, I learnt a lot about chemicals, how a unit has to function, the precautions that are necessary to take while handling the chemicals, the effects it would have on environments if not handled carefully. I think I can very strongly and confidently say that accompanying and being present with my father while he was setting up the manufacturing unit was not less than research and development and this increased my interest and fascination towards chemistry and chemicals.

I was more than sure that I want to pursue my career in chemistry by the time I started my 11th standard, chemical engineering to be more specific. I believe that with the information and knowledge that I have collected over the years during my curriculum as well as the insight and hands on experience I have because of my father’s manufacturing unit would help me perform better and succeed at Penn State.

***"At its heart engineering is about using science to find creative practical solution. It is a noble profession"- Unknown.***

 I would like to have an insight into the various aspects and the opportunity to explore the diversity of chemical engineering and I cannot think a place better than Penn State College of Engineering to pursue my dream and come out a winner.