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.

***Common App Essay Draft***

For as long as I can remember, since childhood I have always had this self-curious and inquisitive nature which perhaps has shaped me to be the person I am today through which I am able to discover new experiences each day.

I have loved playing the keyboard since I saw my teacher playing it in junior school. I was, I admit, initially reluctant to try it but my inquisitive self-won out and, shyly at first, I began to tinker and fiddle with the keys and the myriad options available. I was soon passing many absorbing hours a day and had of course by then pestered my parents into acquiring a keyboard for me. I then turned the internet into my guru, a teacher with infinite knowledge. With the guidance of YouTube, I continued to play the keyboard single-handed for the next two years, until I realized it was time to play using both my hands! It definitely wasn’t as easy as it might sound. It was just not possible for me to play any piece either one-handed or using both hands together. I really had to find out why this was happening. I still had the option to seek assistance from a teacher, but perhaps it was simply my stubborn and independent nature that didn’t allow me to. The more I thought about it, the more did my curiosity increase and I was pretty sure that if I was able to find the cause, I would definitely find the solution. So, I began to research possible reasons as to why this was happening and began to learn about the concepts of the left and right brain.

The theory is that people are either left-brained or right-brained, meaning that one side of their brain is dominant. If you’re mostly analytical and methodical in your thinking, you’re said to be left-brained. If you tend to be more creative or artistic, you’re thought to be more right-brained. So, when it comes to playing the piano you need to be both logical and creative which means both sides of the brain need to come into play.

Now that I knew the reason, I learnt that practice was the only way forward, which needed me to train my brain. This was a challenge, and I love to challenge myself.

In 11th grade, I got the opportunity to head the astronomy club of my school by being appointed as the vice president of the club, and in that capacity, I decided to do something interesting and different for this club, as it had been in the doldrums for some years. The first focus was to design a website where we could keep students engaged with activities related to astronomy and educate them as to the difference between this science and astrology for a start! This apparent ambiguity might of course be a peculiarly Indian phenomenon.

Creating that website was my primary focus. I had various thoughts about how to do it but I finally came to the conclusion that it was possible to do it myself and the fact that computer science fascinated me, made it an appropriate adventure for me. It was my responsibility to ensure that it was done. I geared myself up for an extensive online course during summer break. This growing curiosity and urge kept me going and guess what, by the end of the summer break, we had a brand-new website for my club.

Making a website made me feel empowered and provided a real sense of satisfaction. It was the same with my keyboard, knowing the fact that I am a self-taught keyboardist makes me inspires me to discover new talents and adventures along my journey. The fact that I have this independent aspect of my character since childhood does not mean that I am unwilling to be taught …..…has also helped me develop my sense of wonder and of curiosity which keeps me striving.