**Common app essay**

**Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.**

Since we lived in our farmhouse, which is 20 km away from the main town, it was not feasible for my father to drop me to the school every day and hence it was decided that I should be sent to a boarding school. Upon hearing the news, my grandpa, who loved me more than anyone, locked himself in the room and cried for hours. I was the first and hence the most loved child in the family. When I went to boarding school, I remember all the children, except me, were crying when the parents were leaving for home. I guess I did not shed a tear because I was very much intrigued by the idea of having own bed & stuff, making new friends and learning different things. It was only after a week I realized that things are not as easy as they seem to be. I had to wake up earlier, get ready all by myself and wasn't allowed to go anywhere except the school and the dormitory. By this time, all the kids had managed to get over the home and now, it was me who was crying all the time to go home! But then, I had no other option than to get used to this everyday routine and eventually I started enjoying it. Born as a premature baby, I had to bargain for my life and spend 20 days in the incubator, getting asthma as a bonus. This was the reason why I used to sit back in the hostel while other kids went out to play, until one of my coaches suggested that I go out in the fresh air and not let asthma hinder my joy of playing. I began participating in Taekwondo competitions in my 5th grade followed by Handball and Basketball in the next grades. By the time I was in the 9th grade, we managed to get a football coach for us. Since then Football has been my first love. Talking about academics, I used to perform quite well. Hence, leaving no space for my teachers to complain even if I did some mischief. I also participated in lots of speech, elocution as well as drawing and painting competitions. But one thing I always loved doing was, anchoring for the school events. Going onto the stage and representing my school's culture while keeping it lighthearted by adding humor to the script always fascinated me. I am an introvert but once I get used to people, they see a different version of me. The school has played an integral part in making me resilient and optimistic, which has now allowed me to become independent and figure out things on my own. Everything had been good so far until I encountered the first tragedy of my life. My grandpa passed away during my 10th-grade board exams. I was shattered. I could not get over this and hence always looked for something that could distract me from this. This is when I discovered TedxTalks. I started watching them every night and got inspired by so many people who had lost so much more than me. This motivated me to dream big and work for it. when I announced that I was going to take a gap and wanted to study abroad, everyone in my family thought that I had gone mad. Except for my father, who has always supported every decision of mine, came forward and said, "I'm always there with you but I won't be able to help you with the process as I am not aware of anything, you will have to figure out everything on your own." I felt somewhat relieved after hearing his words and was ready to face the consequences. Since then I've gone through so much. From finding myself a place to live in an unknown city, to keeping myself motivated when I hit the rock bottom of my life. I had to travel alone, manage my expenses and push myself through every hard time. While all this blunder was going on in my life, I found my escape through writing. I have a journal of mine, which has noted every moment of my life. To make this love for writing forward, I started writing blogs and poems. I write every day: quotes, short stories, some inspiring content or just random stuff. With increasingly busy days, I've learned so much, from being my mentor to not relying on anybody for any favor. Well, there's so much to see, to achieve and to give back. There is an impact to be made, community to be served and so much to be cherished. Last but not the least my crazy bucket list to be fulfilled. So that I can look back at this point of my life and say, "I finally made it!"