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**Common Application Essay Prompt (Deadline: November 1)**

**Prompt: 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. (650 Words)**

"Our son will become a doctor," my parents used to say, with a desire to make me a doctor like them.

Even I had no problem with opting medicine as a profession. I had a doctor family, and it would have been a moment of pride to continue my family's legacy.

But, it was not what my life had decided for me.

When I was in tenth grade, our class was introduced to computer programming classes.

None of us knew anything about programming, but I was very thrilled to learn about it.

After a few classes, I found it very interesting and started practicing it at home.

Afterwards, we had to make a calculator, our first project. We had half an hour to complete it, but I only took fifteen minutes. The moment when I finished my project, I said excitedly,'' ma'am I made it ''. Everyone started looking at me with amazement, and it was clear from their expression that none of them had finished it yet. I was appreciated in front of the whole class.

The calculator we made did not look like a calculator at all. So, I decided to learn to make a calculator which looked exactly like the one we see in our smart phones.

I started learning programming languages online, from websites, apps and YouTube. Although I had a lot of homework, I managed to learn it for one to two hours a day, and within a month I was able to make a calculator similar to the one in our phones. The calculator gave me a direction, and I was able to figure out what I wanted to be.

But, my parents thought that it was a waste of time and that I should concentrate on studies, and I was often reminded of it.

Rather than stopping me from learning about programming, their thoughts pushed me to work harder. I started making games and developing algorithms.

After a few months, I started learning about Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning. It was a whole new world to explore. I also took a course offered by Stanford University.

My first AI application was a hand digit recognition system. It took me a full month to make. I showed it to my teacher, my mom and my dad, and all of them were very proud of me.

Inspired by my parents, I wanted to help people. As malaria kills millions of people every year, I built a malaria detecting software, which I want to feed in a device, I wish to make in my university. It would be very handy and economical, thus help millions of patients. The idea makes me happy and encourages me to do amazing things with AI.

My next project was to do something to help the environment. In my country waste management is a very serious issue, so, I decided to make waste sorting software which would separate different types of waste just by looking at it through a camera. It took me one and a half month to complete the project, but when it worked, I felt motivated to make such projects.

Because of my work on AI, I was able to convince my parents that I wanted to be a computer scientist, and with my knowledge, I want to make this world a better place to live. (Words used: 558)