**Ashoka University:Rishabh**

**Course:liberal Arts**

**1.Write about the experience from your past, which has significantly shaped you as a person and your prospective(s) on life. Elaborate upon the experience, your personal engagement with it and the manner in which it has changed you. Provide other relevant details to help us better understand you(Max word limit-450 words)**

In Grade 2, I was detected with ADD(Attention Deficit Disorder), Dyslexia and Dysgraphia. It wasn’t surprising since my attention span in class lasted less than a minute and I wasn’t able to finish my coursework no matter how hard I tried.

It was both good and bad news for me. I was finally able to understand why I couldn’t perform academically despite my persistent efforts. However, being treated as a student with special needs was hard on me. I had no friends and was not included in any group activities. To help with my course work, I was assigned a shadow teacher in school for a few months. This special attention worsened my situation with my peers while it did not particularly enhance my writing abilities.

On the psychologist’s recommendation, I joined swimming and karate classes. It helped me focus and follow instructions as part of a team. I also learned to play the keyboard which besides helping me develop a taste for music also benefited with the coordination of my fingers. The effort was tremendous - to be attentive in a noisy class of thirty, overcoming my reading and writing difficulties, memorizing information, speaking and socializing, creating a place for myself amongst my peers and just been accepted as a normal kid.

With the support from my parents, the school principal and my special education teachers, I am fairly independent now. My attention span has increased considerably, and I can read fluently and with accuracy. I am still working on my writing skills. My social skills have also improved. I have friends and I routinely take part in sports and other extracurricular activities.

This experience has taught me to never underestimate the power of self-belief. It has also made me an empathetic person. I wish to become an inspiration to students with special needs and help them convert their challenges into advantages.

**2. In the course of liberal education, you will learn to unlearn and question opinions and beliefs that have been important to your community of you. Reflect on a time in the past when you examined or questioned a belief or opinion. What initiated your thinking?What was the result(Maximum word limit-150 words)**

As a child suffering from challenges that arise from ADHD, I always wondered why the merciful and kind higher power (GOD) was so particularly inconsiderate towards me. I questioned the very existence of a powerful being who controls the universe.

But one must believe in something – for what is life without faith. I decided to believe in myself, at my own ability to overcome the challenges life threw at me. And I did so by persisting in my efforts to overcome my physical challenges and my internal fears. I believe I am now quite self-sufficient. My internal strength is enough to take me forward in life.

Having said that, I am not against people having faith and belief in God as I believe it is a form of external motivation and gives people the confidence to live and do what they do.

**3. Ashoka University values a diverse, inclusinve and collaborative culture which has a focus on learning from each other and is mindful of its community. In light of this, if you could communicate with your future roommate at university, what would you want them to know about you(Maximum word limit-75 words)**

I would like my future roommate to know that I was once a child with special needs and I am committed to bring awareness to this group of people. I would also like him to know that I am compassionate, loyal and honest. I am quite enthusiastic about playing basketball, swimming, music (guitar, keyboard, and singing) and gaming. And my limitations will not interfere with us having fun together and enjoying the college experience.