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Ms. Julianne Davidow
Adjunct Lecturer, English Department
City College of New York
160 Convent Avenue
New York, NY 10031

Dear Ms. Davidow,

I'm writing to introduce myself and inform you of my background and interests. This is my first semester at City College since I am a transfer student. I have taken a couple of English and Writing classes already at Lehman College, but I have never taken a Writing for Engineering so I'm looking forward to learning as much as I can from this class.

I grew up in the Bronx and my parents came here together in 2010. At first, I lived in Harlem for about half of my childhood. I went to middle school at Thurgood Marshall Academy which is very close to City College. Each time I went to St. Nicholas park I would see City College, and I never expected to attend City College at the time.

My favorite subjects in school were typically Math and some sort of Science, like Biology. I always found math difficult as a young child. However, as I began to grow and mature I found that math wasn't an impossible boulder that I couldn't climb. I realized that math is like anything else and that I can learn it if I spent enough time trying. I often pushed myself when it came to Math, which led me to take some regents exams in Middle school and also take Calculus in High School.

I'm coming back to college after taking a semester off to focus on myself, and this is my first time having classes in person ever since high school so it is definitely an adjustment for me, but I tell myself that I can do anything if I continually put my best effort in.

My hobbies include playing video games, reading philosophy books, working on coding projects, and weightlifting. My favorite part about my hobbies is that they rarely bore me. As a kid, I thought myself to be pretty smart and the ways that I was able to challenge myself were simply doing things that I found challenging, like playing a harder game or lifting heavier, or reading about something completely new.

I've always loved staying indoors and being stuck to my computer. As a young adult, I realize that much of my actions as a kid were simply coping mechanisms for the hardships I was experiencing at the time. I became very introverted and only ever used my computer as a way to escape from my reality. Since I have started to mature, I have started to change the habits and coping mechanisms I had. Now, I absolutely love going outside, I love biking to places and walking across bridges, and being on grass.

The reason I chose Computer Science is that I understand it the best, and the field of Software Engineering has enough opportunities for me to feel comfortable pursuing it. I like the field of engineering and I initially wanted to do Mechanical Engineering, but the number of internships and opportunities available between the two is like night and day. Computer Science has much more opportunities and it is a lower barrier to entry. Also, I like coding to some degree, but it is mainly something I pursue so that I can ensure a better future for myself and my family.

A meaningful experience I had was when I went to San Francisco for an internship this past summer. I was able to meet people and make some friends which completely changed my perspective on life and how I approach the idea of being alive. They opened my eyes to see things in a way that I can be proud of, and I have had plenty of cathartic conversations with my friends from San Francisco. Because of them, I realized that I have to live a life that is worth the pain and to live life trying my absolute best.

My dream for the future is to be employed as a Software Engineer, making enough money to support myself and my family and also to be living a life that makes me proud and pushes me to be better.

My main areas of interest in engineering are Computer Science. Within Computer Science, I don't have many interests, except for Web Development and Game Development. Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning are quite boring.

What I'd really like to learn this semester is how to become a better communicator, because that is important when trying to be an effective team member.

I don't have any concerns.

Sincerely,

Paul Franco
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