

Personal Statement

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I have consistently found myself fortunate in various aspects of my journey. During high school, I seized the opportunity to participate in the marching band, engaging in competitive events in the United States. Additionally, I served as the chief graphics designer for the 143rd issue of my high school magazine, honing my leadership and teamwork skills. It was through these diverse experiences and a stroke of luck that I later gained acceptance to a prestigious university.

Upon entering university, a significant turning point occurred when I befriended a fellow student in my calculus class who was covered in rashes. While I never thought much about it and viewed him like anyone else, he later shared with me that I was among the few who didn't pity him. While I prefer to see myself as someone who does not judge people based on their appearances, I realized that my non-judgmental attitude is rooted in a lack of consideration for the adversities faced by those less fortunate than me. This experience compelled me to reevaluate my perspectives and adopt a deeper understanding of how individuals facing adversity navigate life.

Motivated by this realization, I actively engaged in initiatives aimed at assisting others. Drawing from my role in public communications within the student association, I interned at Numeracy Lab, an organization in Taiwan dedicated to promoting mathematics among those with negative prior experiences. Leveraging social media, I shared my mathematical insights through posts and articles, eliciting positive responses from individuals who had previously disliked the subject.

Collaborating with the friend, we organized a workshop titled "Tools not Taught" for first and second-year economics students during summer vacation. The workshop focused on introducing essential tools such as \LaTeX and R, leveling the playing field for those without prior programming experience and ensuring a smoother transition into more advanced economics courses.

More recently, I fulfilled my conscription duty as a rifleman in the Taiwanese army, providing me with an opportunity to collaborate with individuals from diverse socio-economic backgrounds. This unique environment tested my communication and teamwork skills, resulting not only in my effective functioning within the company but also earning respect from my comrades. These varied experiences have equipped me with a nuanced perspective and a commitment to fostering inclusivity.

While I acknowledge the fortune that paved my journey, I've come to understand the struggles of others not with pity but with a commitment to offering equal respect, fostering empathy and inclusivity in every endeavor. This awareness has become an integral part of my approach to life, shaping my aspirations for meaningful contributions to the community at Duke University and beyond.