

Brown University writing supplement

Brown University Writing

Brown's Open Curriculum allows students to explore broadly while also diving deeply into their academic pursuits. Tell us about any academic interests that excite you, and how you might pursue them at Brown. (250 word limit)

When I was eleven, my dad installed the Linux operating system on my laptop. Instead of just using software, I started to question it. How do two or four physical cores execute thousands of programs concurrently? What exactly are executable files?

At Brown, I want to study these questions further through the computer science courses, such as CSCI 0300. At the same time, I would take advantage of the open curriculum to study sociology and explore the social and economic impacts of technology.

I would also like to join courses on applied mathematics. I have used statistical analysis in Olympiad competitions before by analysing past competitions and questions, as well as the strategies of good performers. I even tried to devise new metrics to analyse IOI performance, albeit unsuccessfully. At Brown, I want to refine these statistical models.

By combining knowledge of computer science, statistics, and sociology, I want to develop models which can predict student learning curves and improve educational interventions. I would also try to join CSCI 1491 to ensure that the algorithms I build are free of biases. I will explore this further through the Swearer Center, where I will apply technical skills to real educational challenges.

At Brown, I plan to keep asking foundational questions about computing while using what I learn to contribute to my community.

Students entering Brown often find that making their home on College Hill naturally invites reflection on where they came from. Share how an aspect of your growing up has inspired or challenged you, and what unique contributions this might allow you to make to the Brown community. (250 word limit)

I grew up in an ivory tower, a modern university campus with some of the best infrastructure in the country, situated in the middle of a village in a tier-2 city. Every day, I went through the gate, going from a multicultural hub to people speaking exclusively in the regional language.

I have grown up observing this difference, comparing dinner-table debates over labour law to street vendors and daily wagers who defy those ideals. I would contribute to Brown by challenging oversimplified arguments in classroom discussions and helping peers ground policy, technology, and social debates in reality. For instance, in a discussion on public health failures, I pointed out that, rather than illiteracy, charlatans were more accessible and trustworthy to people living in

villages, whereas doctors were strangers living far away.

At Brown, I would participate in programs by the Swearer Center for Public Service. My background will enable me to serve as a “bridge” by spending time in the local community, identifying where academic assumptions break down, and then bringing them back to the classroom.

Brown students care deeply about their work and the world around them. Students find contentment, satisfaction, and meaning in daily interactions and major discoveries. Whether big or small, mundane or spectacular, tell us about something that brings you joy. (250 word limit)

Watching a few episodes of my all-time favourite comedy, The Simpsons, has become my nightly ritual. While the show can seem silly and meaningless, it lightens my mood and calms my mind. Similar to meditation, although less spiritual in nature. It’s my way of destressing after a particularly gruelling study session.

The Simpsons also brings my whole family together to share a laugh. In my household, we have a culture of finishing our work or studies before dinner. As a result, we fill the time by chatting happily and playing games together, with The Simpsons often in the background.

Moreover, the show also gives me new jokes to crack with my friends. This has been instrumental in improving my English listening and speaking skills. It also affects the way I think, making me not take everything to heart and dwell too long on negativity. When a day goes bad, I step back, almost as if watching a scene unfold.

What three words best describe you? (3 words)

Music-lover, food-lover, systematic.

If you could teach a class on any one thing, whether academic or otherwise, what would it be?

The art of analysis.

Course description: Learn analysis not as a research technique, but rather as a problem-solving technique. How can we analyse problems and solutions in real life to optimise outcomes? We will use methods from business administration, such as SWOT, and cover hypothetical issues ranging from simple to difficult (e.g., stranded alone in the rain). We will also apply this to systematic social and economic issues. The final project will involve students researching and finding viable solutions to a real-life problem of their choosing.

Why Brown?

Brown's open curriculum will give me the freedom to merge rigorous computer science theory with sociology and statistics without restrictions, allowing me to blaze my own trail in college.