3. What would you say is your greatest talent or skill? How have you developed and demonstrated that talent over time?
Things to consider: If there's a talent or skill that you're proud of, this is the time to share it. You don't necessarily have to be recognized or have received awards for your talent (although if you did and you want to talk about it, feel free to do so). Why is this talent or skill meaningful to you?]Does the talent come naturally or have you worked hard to develop this skill or talent? Does your talent or skill allow you opportunities in or outside the classroom? If so, what are they and how do they fit into your schedule?\

Growing up I felt as if I was different from others, but not in a bad sense; it was in such a way where I felt as if I was given the ability to just pick up and learn new things very easily. I've taken this as a gift since it has given me guidance to support myself in securing most of my notable interests and also make me the person I am. This was a hidden talent, but even from a young age, I could see myself progressing quickly when it came to even minor things like understanding newly introduced concepts. As I got older I realized that this would expand to major parts of my life that have molded me as a person and also my mindset. I first experienced this musically through instruments, being able to easily pick up and learn the cello. In the sixth grade, I had chosen the cello as my musical elective. My progress was delayed after transferring school districts but I found it very easy to understand and follow along with my peers even if they had started sooner. Being able to pick up the cello so easily swayed me to continue the cello for multiple years and inevitably gave me my love and passion for music. The same thought was applied when I started my journey for weight-lifting. As an introverted boy I always saw the gym as a very challenging activity that would be too difficult for me to get into, but I quickly saw that I could easily get a grasp on what to do which encouraged me to continue to go. Ever since my first experience, I have only grown as a person even boosting my self-confidence all because of being able to quickly adapt when I first began. Having an adept learning style has allowed me to connect with the things like weight lifting and music, which created great passions within hobbies and completely change my mindset for the better just by being able to easily get the hang of things.

4. Describe how you have taken advantage of a significant educational opportunity or worked to overcome an educational barrier you have faced.
Things to consider: An educational opportunity can be anything that has added value to your educational experience and better prepared you for college. For example, participation in an honors or academic enrichment program, or enrollment in an academy that's geared toward an occupation or a major, or taking advanced courses that interest you — just to name a few. If you choose to write about educational barriers you've faced, how did you overcome or strive to overcome them? What personal characteristics or skills did you call on to overcome this challenge? How did overcoming this barrier help shape who are you today?

From the beginning to the end of my high school career I explored the amazing world of engineering through an early start in the "Project Lead The Way" academy. The program gave me insight into many engineering fields and explored many projects, which gave me an early look at how engineering would be as a career and a major. This course was a full four-year high school experience that ranged from things like the basics of engineering all the way to higher levels completing a big project every year. My first year which brought me close to engineering was when we went through an intro to engineering. I would have to physically and digitally design products using my imagination, which fascinated me with engineering as a major. In my sophomore year of high school, my academy would have a big switch to focusing specifically on digital electronics where I would explore more of a mathematical approach with a lot of electronics, logic problems, and circuit designs. I moved on to a much bigger and one of my favorite engineering fields in my junior year which was the focus around aerospace engineering. Everything to do with the sky and space has been fascinating to me. Being able to look at what goes into the design process and having a hands-on focus on problem-solving myself had me very interested in the subject. My final year of high school would go back to a wide range of subjects since the program provided an engineering academy focusing on subjects like writing in engineering, physics engineering, and engineering design. This would be a very interesting year of the program since I would work with big projects and get a broad understanding of engineering as a whole, looking at the background and working with many different cases of past engineering designs. The "Project Lead The Way" academy has given me a great advantage allowing me to start engineering early and inspiring me to follow engineering as a future pathway.

5. Describe the most significant challenge you have faced and the steps you have taken to overcome this challenge. How has this challenge affected your academic achievement?

Things to consider: A challenge could be personal, or something you have faced in your community or school. Why was the challenge significant to you? This is a good opportunity to talk about any obstacles you've faced and what you've learned from the experience. Did you have support from someone else or did you handle it alone? If you're currently working your way through a challenge, what are you doing now, and does that affect different aspects of your life? For example, ask yourself, "How has my life changed at home, at my school, with my friends, or with my family?"

Walking into an unfamiliar place, with unfamiliar people only hearing the murmurs and feeling the weird looks from others, had made it hard on me as a young kid. I had to deal with moving away from my hometown and away from the friends that I grew up with. I moved to Los Angeles where I would start my sixth-grade year off, away from the friends I knew. This was a lot to take in as a young introverted kid, so it didn't make it any better to feel stares and hear whispers when walking into class. I had a lot of support from my family since they came with me on this journey, but it didn't make much difference when I was in school. Making friends was a major challenge since talking to people I'd never interacted with before was very difficult. After adjusting and being able to find the positives of the situation I was finally able to pick up a good friend group. All it took was a change in mindset in order to teach me not to look in the past which encouraged me to get to know my classmates. When it was all looking good, I got the news that I would be moving schools once again from Venice to Santa Monica. This would mean I would lose the progress that I had just built up but with my previous experience this time I was able to keep a positive attitude and focus on moving forward since that was what I learned to do best. I was not afraid and it allowed me to pick up some good friends very quickly rather than staying quiet to myself. Moving initially took a huge toll on my academic performance, having me worry more about fitting in rather than focusing on schoolwork. I was able to combat these barriers with hard life lessons which allowed me to focus more on the positive side of a bad situation and keep my train of thought away from the past which I still apply to this day.

6. Think about an academic subject that inspires you. Describe how you have furthered this interest inside and/or outside of the classroom.

Things to consider: Many students have a passion for one specific academic subject area, something that they just can't get enough of. If that applies to you, what have you done to further that interest? Discuss how your interest in the subject developed and describe any experience you have had inside and outside the classroom — such as volunteer work, internships, employment, summer programs, participation in student organizations and/or clubs — and what you have gained from your involvement. Has your interest in the subject influenced you in choosing a major and/or future career? Have you been able to pursue coursework at a higher level in this subject (honors, AP, IB, college or university work)? Are you inspired to pursue this subject further at UC, and how might you do that?

Engineering has all the benefits of freedom, creativity, and variety which is why I developed a quick attachment to the subject. I've always felt an easy connection with math in general, so it didn't take much to get me interested in engineering. I was fortunate enough to start my journey with engineering early in the ninth grade when I joined the Project Lead The Way program that was implemented by my school. I found this to be a very great opportunity since it would introduce me to many different fields of engineering all throughout my high school career. This program was a four-year program going through a specific field of engineering in each of my high school years. I was not only able to gain a lot of knowledge on specifics like general engineering, digital electronics, and aerospace engineering, but it also allowed me to participate in big projects like the yearly event held by the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) run by NASA. I participated in the JPL Sticky Wicket challenge my senior year of high school which required me to design and build a model based on the competition 2022 task and guidelines using teamwork and engineering skills. Another project I was a part of was an Artificial Intelligence camp

provided by Stanford University which gave me insight into the basics of programming fundamentals and data science. This introduced me to software engineering where I would be able to see how to code and what can be done through coding. All of the programs that I went through heavily influenced my decision for my future major and even career choice. The Project Lead The Way program which showed me my beginning ways around engineering gave me my first inspiration to lead my career around something based on engineering. It wasn't until I experienced coding within the Artificial Intelligence camp that I found a passion for software engineering specifically. Experiencing many opportunities around engineering has made me attached to pursuing the subject in the future and inspired me to further my engineering passion at UC.