

**In the first step of the essay editing process, the student brings a draft of the application essay for review. The college admission counselor's responsibility is to shape this initial attempt into a well-written essay that impresses admissions officers. Below is a sample essay that the student brought for editing.**

## **University of California: Prompt #7 – Original Draft**

**Prompt:** What have you done to make your school or your community a better place?

“Chinese foods?” One of my American born Chinese classmate confusingly inquired, “I really like dumplings.” Unfortunately, that’s perhaps the only Chinese food he knows. According to the Accountability Progress Reporting in 2013, 958 out of 1602 students were Asian in 2013 in my high school. However, many were born in America and has limited amount of knowledge about Asian culture. United States is a multicultural country that consists of diverse people. Therefore, I believe people should always strive to learn culture of their own ethnicity and others’. I feel sincerely concerned with how high school students focus only on academic subjects and ignore the importance of culture. I and my friends were first inspired by our AP Chinese teacher, who was the consultant of the previous Asian Culture Club that was abandoned due to lack of participants. Intended to spread out Asian cultures, we decided to re-establish Asian Culture Club. Every month we have two informational meetings, which introduce basic knowledges of a particular Asian country’s culture. We mainly focus on traditional foods, customs, and festival of a certain country, and encourage students to actually practice some manner. For example, we arranged a Chinese tea party during lunch time, teaching students the correct sequence of brewing tea. Organizing a club requires effort, especially for us who have never done anything similar. At first, nobody attended our meeting because the time conflict with Key Club which is extremely popular in our school; also, It was arduous to shift students’ interest away from their AP/honor courses. However, teenagers have weakness: they are not resistant to foods. Through working with the club officers, I learnt that it is important to learn experience from failure and seek a solution out of it. We figured out that people would come to enjoy new food, while we can present our lecture and gradually attract their attention. Nowadays, many people consistently participate in our club events and study Asian cultures. Even some of my friends from Key Club are considering attending our meeting once a while.

**In the second step, the college admissions counselor will provide feedback on the essay's content, organization and structure, and style. The counselor will advise the student on areas for improvement and work with the student to address those concerns. The comments provided here (in blue balloons) are examples of the type of commentary given to the student.**

## University of California: Prompt #7 – Original Draft with Comments

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"Chinese foods?" One of my American born Chinese classmate confusingly inquired, "I really like dumplings." Unfortunately, that's perhaps the only Chinese food he knows. According to the Accountability Progress Reporting in 2013, 958 out of 1602 students were Asian in 2013 in my high school. However, many were born in America and has limited amount of knowledge about Asian culture. United States is a multicultural country that consists of diverse people. Therefore, I believe people should always strive to learn culture of their own ethnicity and others'. I feel sincerely concerned with how high school students focus only on academic subjects and ignore the importance of culture. I and my friends were first inspired by our AP Chinese teacher, who was the consultant of the previous Asian Culture Club that was abandoned due to lack of participants. Intended to spread out Asian cultures, we decided to re-establish Asian Culture Club. Every month we have two informational meetings, which introduce basic knowledges of a particular Asian country's culture. We mainly focus on traditional foods, customs, and festival of a certain country, and encourage students to actually practice some manner. For example, we arranged a Chinese tea party during lunch time, teaching students the correct sequence of brewing tea. Organizing a club requires effort, especially for us who have never done anything similar. At first, nobody attended our meeting because the time conflict with Key Club which is extremely popular in our school; also, It was arduous to shift students' interest away from their AP/honor courses. However, teenagers have weakness: they are not resistant to foods. Through working with the club officers, I learnt that it is important to learn experience from failure and seek a solution out of it. We figured out that people would come to enjoy new food, while we can present our lecture and gradually attract their attention. Nowadays, many people consistently participate in our club events and study Asian cultures. Even some of my friends from Key Club are considering attending our meeting once a while.

**Comment [A1]:** Please re-word this opening. It's a bit awkward and confusing as to who is asking the questions.

**Comment [A2]:** This part could be funny, but the context is not there yet.

**Comment [A3]:** Incorporating the statistics has to be done more smoothly.

**Comment [A4]:** Condense into a single sentence.

**Comment [A5]:** Use proper names.

**Comment [A6]:** Avoid fragments. Edit for grammar and word choice in general.

**Comment [A7]:** Good details here. Provide more specifics.

**Comment [A8]:** Great example. Provide sensory details and discuss why it's important.

**Comment [A9]:** Give some context for the school's academic culture.

**Comment [A10]:** Re-word, but good concept.

**Comment [A11]:** This part should be the focus of the essay - the strategies and the events you created as part of the club leadership. Everything before feels like part of an introduction. We can condense the previous writing and save the word count for addressing the main idea.

**Comment [A12]:** Great idea to allude to a previous part of the essay, but needs to show the importance of this achievement.

In the third step, the college admissions counselor completes a thorough edit and revision of the each essay draft, modifying structure and word choice to better express the student's ideas and overall message. An essay might take several edits to complete. Below is an example of ONE edit.

## University of California: Prompt #7 – Edits

**Prompt:** What have you done to make your school or your community a better place?

“Chinese foods? I guess I like Panda Express and those Costco dumplings,” Hunter, my One of my American-born Chinese classmate offered. Despite attending a high school that is, according to the Accountability Progress Report, 63% Asian, that is confusingly inquired, “I really like dumplings.” Unfortunately, that’s perhaps the only Chinese food he knows.

According to the Accountability Progress Reporting in 2013, 958 out of 1602 students were Asian in 2013 in my high school. However, many were born in 2nd generation Asian students have America and has limited amount of knowledge of about Asian culture. Our country is a United States is a multicultural one enriched by country that consists of diverse people, and we shou. Therefore, I believe people should always strive to learn about our own heritage and that of culture of their own ethnicity and others’.

I feel Ssincerely concerned with Irvington High School's extreme focus on how high school students focus only on academic subjects and their lack of ignore the importance of cultural awareness, my . I and my friends Anna and Wei-Lan were first inspired by our AP Chinese teacher Ms. Lee, who was the once advisor of the now defunct consultant of the previous Asian Culture Club, to resurrect and re-establish the that was abandoned due to lack of participants. Intended to spread out Asian cultures, we decided to re-establish Asian Culture Club.

During our Every month we have two informational meetings, we which introduce basic knowledge of a particular Asian country's culture through . We mainly focus on traditional foods, customs, and holiday festivals of a certain country. We , and encourage students to participate in our hands-on activities, teaching them correct sequence of brewing tea during a lunchtime Japanese actually practice some manner. For example, we arranged a Chinese tea party during lunch time, teaching students the correct sequence of brewing teaceremony, the steps to a traditional Burmese folkdance, and reciting Hindu prayers. -

Organizing a club requires effort, especially for those of us who have never done anything similar. At first, our sparsely nobody attended our meetings discouraged us. Often competing with students' intense focus on AP and Honors courses or time conflicts with the campus' extremely popular because the time conflict with Key Club which is extremely popular in our school; also, Key Club, we worked to draw attention to our club and gain membership. Luckily, It was arduous to shift students' interest away from their AP/honor courses. However, teenagers have a weakness: they are can not resistant to foods. Through working with the club officers, we found a solution from I learnt that it is important to learn experiencing e from failure; w-and seek a solution out of it. We figured out that people would come to enjoy new new foods, allowing us to while we can present our lecture and gradually attract their attention.

Nowadays, many people consistently participate in our club events and study Asian cultures. Even my some of my friends from Key Club friends now are considering attending our meetings once in a while.

**The final essay has undergone many drafts and revisions before it is finally ready to be submitted. The final essay is now a compelling piece of the student's application, representing the student well and placing the student at best advantage for admission.**

## **University of California: Prompt #7 – Final**

**Prompt:** What have you done to make your school or your community a better place?

“Chinese food? I guess I like Panda Express and those Costco dumplings,” Hunter, my American-born Chinese classmate offered. Despite attending a high school that is, according to the Accountability Progress Report, 63% Asian, that is unfortunately perhaps the only Chinese food he knows.

Many 2nd generation Asian students have limited knowledge of Asian culture. Our country is a multicultural one enriched by diverse people, and we should strive to learn about our own heritage and that of others.

Sincerely concerned with Irvington High School's extreme focus on academic subjects and their lack of cultural awareness, my friends Anna and Wei-Lan were first inspired by our AP Chinese teacher Ms. Lee, the once advisor of the now defunct Asian Culture Club, to resurrect and re-establish the Asian Culture Club.

During our informational meetings, we introduce basic knowledge of a particular Asian country's culture through traditional foods, customs, and holiday festivals. We encourage students to participate in our hands-on activities, teaching them correct sequence of brewing tea during a lunchtime Japanese tea ceremony, the steps to a traditional Burmese folkdance, and reciting Hindu prayers.

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Nowadays, many people consistently participate in our club events and study Asian cultures. Even my Key Club friends now attend our meetings once in a while.

**Just in case you already forgot how the first draft looks like, below please find the first and final draft for comparison. Please carefully check them: you will be amazed by how many changes are made in wording, content and structure.**

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