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Thank you for placing your order with Ivy Writing. It has been a pleasure to read and edit your essay, and I look forward to helping you submit the best possible application. Furthermore, my goal is not only to help you with this assignment, but also to help improve your essay writing in general.

Your essays have special relevance to my interests. I am currently a 4th-year undergraduate at Harvard completing my Master's Degree in chemistry and chemical biology. Furthermore, my brother was an undergraduate at Johns Hopkins and is now a medical student at Ohio State. Your work on neurological disease models is certainly very important to screening for therapeutics.

In this document you will find three the standard 3 components of our essay editing service: first, a discussion of some of the strengths and weaknesses of each statement; second, your original essay with comments in the margin (using Microsoft Word's "Track Changes" feature); and finally, a revised version of your essay.

Please review the comments and revised essay carefully. I would like you to let me know if you have any questions about any editing choices I have made.

Please do not hesitate to contact me for any question on the editing. We will work together to give you the perfect essay.

Again, thank you for choosing Ivy Writing.

All the best,

Allen Cheng

## COVER LETTER Comments

This is a good summary of your accomplishments, and the reader can get a good sense of who you are. You also have a good command of English. I would suggest the following general changes:

- In the introduction, give a brief summary of your background, your future goals, and your interest in Sloan. This gives a much better basis for understanding what comes afterward. Otherwise the reader does not know what to expect.
- As I note below, you will probably face questions on why you want to go into business and industry instead of staying in academia, especially given your extensive training. I have suggested in the revised version that it is because you want to translate basic science research to the clinic, but feel free to correct me.

## COVER LETTER

Dear Mr. Rod Garcia,

My name is [REDACTED]. I would like to present my candidacy to Sloan MBA Program, describing my accomplishments in my career path.

I completed the PhD in Neuroscience to satisfy my curiosity in biotechnology. My four and half years of graduate study at Ohio State University were fundamental in my professional development by imbuing me with the mindset necessary to conduct research. During that time, I combined coursework with my full-time laboratory work as a graduate research associate researching oxidative stress in Alzheimer's disease. As I advanced to become a senior lab member, I took on positions of greater responsibility—presenting my work at international conferences, collaborating with on-campus and independent research groups, training junior students, and assisting my supervisor with grant-writing. My work ultimately led to the publication of seven research papers and earned approximately \$1 million in research funding for my laboratory.

Another of my big accomplishments is nearing completion at Johns Hopkins University where I develop therapeutic strategies by working on animal models of diseases. I have been in charge of a complex research project that represents a culmination of all of my educational and professional experience. The tasks involved have required as much managerial skill as technical skill. I have met extensive analytical requirements, creating large, unstable molecules and analyzing numerous variables that affect the credibility of animal models. As a result of my careful planning and accurate procedures, the project proceeded very smoothly. Because of my efforts in the first part of the project, my supervisors assigned me to manage a group of four graduate students, and my responsibilities range from instructing them on experimental design, problem-solving, and data analysis to encouraging them to collaborate effectively as a team. I also urge the students to view their work as an integral part of the overall project rather than as an isolated topic. By establishing good relationships among team members, I have improved our efficiency and heightened our morale on the job. After nine months of teamwork, we successfully created the animal models crucial to a fruitful outcome, putting my laboratory in a strong position to discover therapeutic methods and receive government funding.

**Comment [AC1]:** I would suggest a fuller intro that describes your deep background in science, your future goal of opening a biotech company, and your interest in Sloan. This is a quick summary that will prepare the reader for whatever you have to say next.

**Comment [AC2]:** You should add the year of graduation to establish a timeline.

**Comment [AC3]:** Is this as a postdoc? You should add these details.

**Comment [AC4]:** I feel that this is too vague and therefore is not worth the space it takes up. Talking about your success at the end of the paragraph is sufficient.

Through these accomplishments I have flourished with professional capabilities, interpersonal skills, and confidence to know that I can succeed with strong initiative and concentrated effort. However, the most significant accomplishment to be completed in my list is to optimize the practical utilization of biotechnologies and create my own biotech company in China, my ultimate interests that the business world would be the arena to fulfill. I believe that the strong education at Sloan will not only provide me with valuable knowledge about business and its relevant applications, but also train me to transform my ideas into practical plans. I am particularly excited about G-lab, an action-based learning model that explores critical, dynamic issues of entrepreneurship in the real world. Thus, I look forward to further developing my leadership and management skills through a unique combination of case studies, collaborative team projects, and lab course training.

I am truly looking forward to have an MBA education at Sloan, the best possible way to marry my skilled medical background with my future business aspirations and bring my plans to fruition.

Sincerely,

■

**Comment [AC5]:** Business school representatives will likely wonder why you are transitioning from academic science to industry. You can anticipate these questions with a response here or in the introduction if you'd like.

**Comment [AC6]:** I would like to split this paragraph into two – one on your future goals, and another on your interest in Sloan.

**Comment [AC7]:** It is not so much medical as it is scientific.

Dear Mr. Rod Garcia,

My name is [REDACTED]. I would like to present my candidacy to the Sloan MBA Program. My background is in academic science – I have completed a PhD and a post-doctoral position, and I have published [x] research papers. I would like to focus the rest of my career on the application of research to benefiting human life and eventually create my own biotech company in China. The rigorous training at Sloan will prepare me for my ultimate goals.

I earned a PhD in Neuroscience at Ohio State University in [2004?] to satisfy my curiosity in biotechnology and imbue me with the mindset necessary for successful research. Over four and a half years, I combined coursework with full-time laboratory work researching oxidative stress in Alzheimer's disease. As I became a senior lab member, I took on positions of greater responsibility—presenting my work at international conferences, collaborating with on-campus and independent research groups, training junior students, and assisting my supervisor with grant-writing. My work ultimately led to the publication of seven research papers and earned approximately \$1 million in research funding for my laboratory.

Another major accomplishment is nearing completion at Johns Hopkins University where I develop therapeutic strategies by working on animal models of disease. As a post-doctoral fellow, I have been in charge of a complex research project that requires both managerial and technical skills. I currently manage a group of four graduate students, and my responsibilities range from instructing them on experimental design, problem-solving, and data analysis to encouraging them to collaborate effectively as a team. I also urge the students to view their work as an integral part of the overall project rather than as an isolated topic. By establishing good relationships among team members, I have improved our efficiency and heightened our morale on the job. After nine months of teamwork, we successfully created animal models of disease, placing my laboratory in a strong position to discover novel therapeutic methods and receive more government funding.

These accomplishments have been possible with my professional capabilities, interpersonal skills, and the confidence to know that I can succeed with strong initiative and concentrated effort. I now wish to apply the fruits of basic science research to treating human disease and eventually create my own biotech company in China.

I believe that a strong education at Sloan will not only provide me with valuable knowledge about business and its relevant applications, but also train me to transform my ideas into practical plans. I am particularly excited about G-lab, an action-based learning model that explores critical, dynamic issues of entrepreneurship in the real world. I look forward to further developing my leadership and management skills through a unique combination of case studies, collaborative team projects, and lab course training.

I am truly looking forward to have an MBA education at Sloan, the best possible way to marry my skilled scientific background with my future business aspirations and bring my plans to fruition.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

## Essay 1 Comments

The general organization of this essay is good. Some general comments that apply to this essay and others are:

- Specify more details about your job title and the time frame of these events to allow the reader to assess these events. If you joined the lab as a postdoc in 2005 and student R started having problems in 2006, the reader may wonder why you didn't make the effort to talk to the student and learn more about his background earlier. The only way it would make sense is if you joined the lab and had this problem soon after – that way you wouldn't have had a chance to learn about the student.
- There are some sentences here and in other essays that are grammatically incorrect for different reasons. Other sentences would sound a bit awkward to native English speakers. I have not indicated all my corrections below with comments since that would detract from my other comments, but I have made the changes in the revision. Please let me know if you have any questions about these changes or if I have deviated from your original message.

### Essay 1: Please tell us about a challenging interaction you had with a person or group. (500 words or less, limited to one page)

I recently had the opportunity to manage a diverse group of graduate students working on a major laboratory project. Each morning, I met with them to discuss the previous day's results, analyze the causes of experimental failure, and interpret their findings. I found that student R was absent-minded during group discussions and impatient when I tried to highlight some critical experimental tips after assigning daily work load to him. Puzzled, I decided to seek the answer and further solve this setback.

Step one was to know more about student R. Talking with him during lunches, I realized that, unlike other students in our group, student R was about the same age as me and had several years of research experience working as a technologist. I reasoned that the knowledge conveyed and the work assigned could not satisfy student R's aspiration, resulting in his passive response. Therefore, I inquired his opinion on work assignment. Within my expectation, student R exhibited his willing to take work in larger amount and higher complexity. Because he was quite mature in terms of age and lab experience, I decided to change the step-by-step instruction to open discussion and encourage him to propose, training him to become an independent thinker. Immediately, I saw the improved morale of student R.

However, the challenging interaction I had with student R did not end. A while later, I found that student R worked extremely hard but made little progression. As I paid more attention to his work, I realized that he kept repeating one experiment in two weeks. My experience told me that he was encountering technical difficulties but did not know clearly how to solve them. Although not sure about why he did not seek my help, I reasoned that he mistook, to some extent, my intention to train him work independently for testing his working abilities, therefore making him feel uncomfortable to come to me. Although an offer of help might hurt his pride, I was

**Comment [AC8]:** How many graduate students did you supervise?

**Comment [AC9]:** What was your title (postdoc/group manager)? Where was the work performed? (Hopkins) When did you start the job? When you begin an essay, you should inform the reader about these details to give him a foundation for understanding.

**Comment [AC10]:** Let's be more specific – I will say it is a major neuroscience project. Details are good – they allow you to be more memorable in the reader's mind.

**Comment [AC11]:** If you are currently still in this position, you want to change this to the present tense. Let me know if this is the case.

**Comment [AC12]:** How long ago did this happen? Hopefully it was near the beginning of your time as a postdoc – otherwise the reader might wonder why you didn't make the effort to know the students better before problems arose.

**Comment [AC13]:** Be more specific – one month, three months?

**Comment [AC14]:** This phrase does not add very much in meaning to the sentence – since we are cutting words, we should avoid these phrases.

determined to achieve what was right both for him and for the team, a coordinated effort from individual members.

I organized a weekend party, during which I had an easy conversation with student R. I talked through my graduate study, from the time that I started without any research experience to the time that I graduated with several papers published in top neuroscience journals. As I attributed my professional accomplishment both to advices and helps that I received from my supervisor, colleagues, and friends and to my willing to learn, I convinced him the importance of having a passion to ask whoever may have different opinions. After I clearly stated my aim in gradually training him and other team members to become an independent researcher and showed him my openness to questions and suggestions, student R initiated the discussion on his technical difficulties, which were finally overcome by our collective efforts.

This challenging interaction taught me an invaluable lesson for my development of leadership and teamwork. From this experience, I realized the importance of assessing individual strengths and weaknesses and then assigning each student an appropriate workload to help maximize his or her abilities. Moreover, free-hearted, adequate communication plays an important role in establishing good relationship and collaborative spirit among team members, improving working efficiency. These skills are critical to my future success, and I hope to further improve at Sloan.

**Comment [AC15]:** "Advice" and "help" are usually used in singular form since they refer to the general act of giving advice.

**Comment [AC16]:** This is a long sentence, and it can be difficult to wade through. A general note is to make these essays easy to read – split up long sentences if you can.

**Comment [AC17]:** "Adequate" means "sufficient" and is not a very positive word. I will replace it with "open-minded."

Essay 1: Please tell us about a challenging interaction you had with a person or group. (500 words or less, limited to one page)

As a post-doctoral researcher at Johns Hopkins since [200-], I manage [x] graduate students working together on a major neuroscience project. Each morning, I lead a meeting to discuss and interpret the previous day's results and analyze the causes of experimental failure.

[Time frame – e.g. six months ago, etc] I found that student R was absent-minded during group discussions and impatient when I highlighted some critical experimental tips after assigning the daily work load to him. Puzzled, I decided to investigate the reasons for his behavior.

The first step was to learn more about student R. Talking with him during lunches, I realized that, unlike other students in our group, student R was about the same age as me and had several years of research experience working as a technologist. I reasoned that the work assigned did not challenge and develop student R, resulting in his passive response. Therefore, I asked for his opinion on his work assignments. As expected, student R conveyed his willingness to take more work with higher complexity. Because of his experience and maturity, I changed the usual step-by-step instruction to an open discussion and encouraged him to propose his own experiments, training him to become an independent thinker. His morale immediately improved.

This came with its own challenges. [Timeframe] later, I found that student R was working extremely hard but had made little progression. Careful examination showed that he had been repeating one experiment for two weeks. I knew he had technical difficulties but did not know how to solve them or seek help from others. I reasoned that he misunderstood my intention to train him to work independently, and he felt uncomfortable seeking help.

Since directly offering to help may have hurt his pride, I was determined to investigate his intentions further. I organized a weekend party for the group, during which I chatted casually with student R. I discussed my graduate study, from my rough initiation without any research experience to my graduation with several papers published in top neuroscience journals. I attributed my accomplishment to both the advice I received from my supervisor and colleagues and to my willingness to learn. I thereby convinced him of the importance of seeking help when needed as part of a passion to learn and grow. After I clearly stated my aim in training him and other team members to become independent researchers and showed my openness to questions and suggestions, student R initiated the discussion on his technical difficulties. Our collective efforts eventually overcame his obstacles.

This challenging interaction taught me an invaluable lesson for my leadership style and philosophy on teamwork. I realized the importance of assessing individual strengths and weaknesses and then assigning each student an appropriate workload to help maximize his or her abilities. Moreover, I realized that free-hearted, open-minded communication is important in establishing good relationships and a collaborative spirit among team members, ultimately improving work efficiency. These skills are critical to my future success, and I hope to further develop them at Sloan.

## Essay 2 Comments

This is a good story that is logically written and answers the question. I have one general comment:

- Watch out for long paragraphs. The reader likely has hundreds of essays to read, and you want to make it as easy as possible for him to read. Long paragraphs can make reading difficult and obscure the main point. I would say that, in a one page essay, the maximum paragraph length should be about eight lines. Any longer than that and you can probably cut it in half.

Essay 2: Please tell us about a time when you defended your idea. (500 words or less, limited to one page)

I am responsible for a project to devise a new mouse model of neurodegenerative disease—the best method for screening therapeutic drugs. In the project, I modified inheritable materials in mouse's embryonic stem (ES) cells with disease-related changes and subsequently submitted cells to the university facility to implant my ES cells into developing mouse embryos. The newborn mouse carries tissues developed both from modified ES cells and from original embryo. The mouse model is successfully created only if the mouse can produce offspring with modification. After mice were born, however, I could not get the offspring with modified inheritable materials. The problem could be either my ES cells or the mouse embryos used and the facility attributed the failure to the quality of my ES cells. Since technologists in the facility had worked in this specialty for years, my supervisor believed their judgment and asked me to remake the ES cells.

Without knowing the root cause of problem, I did not rush into repeating the same procedure but did a thorough investigation on each step that I had performed. No mistake was found. I started considering the possibility of wrong mouse embryos used in the facility. However, Chip, the facility manager, and my supervisor disagreed with me, reasoning that the facility had successfully done the job hundreds of times with this kind of mouse embryos. Their determined attitude against trying embryos from other mouse strains made me realize that I had to find solid evidence to support my idea. I gathered information from internet, professional publications, and experts worldwide. Special thanks to Aurora Burds Connor, Director of Mouse ES Cells and Transgenics Facility at MIT, she provided me with professional explanation of how embryos from different mouse strains could affect the outcome of the experiments. In my case, the explanation could be that the growth rate of my ES cells was very low and correspondingly the embryos with comparable grow rate should be used to avoid growing precedence. As I showed data supporting my position, my supervisor was convinced and gave me the right to decide. I collaborated with the facility in another university, which agreed to provide the service using other mouse strains. Three months later, I successfully generated the mouse model of disease.

I decided to tell Chip about the result because it could help him to better serve Johns Hopkins community and benefit him in his future career. During our conversation, I acknowledged my insufficiency of planning rather than escaping from the responsibility for experimental failure.

**Comment [AC18]:** Once again, more details – at Hopkins, as a postdoctoral researcher, etc.

**Comment [AC19]:** Absolute words like “best” should be avoided since they raise objections. I will replace it with “robust.”

**Comment [AC20]:** We should simplify this as genetic changes unless you are talking about epigenetic changes. Inheritable materials can be confusing.

**Comment [AC21]:** You want to be careful with using scientific text that laypeople cannot understand. This is just a general note for any essay you write.

**Comment [AC22]:** Let's start a new paragraph here – otherwise, it gets too long.

**Comment [AC23]:** Notice the phrase construction here – if you instead used a direct verb phrase like “thoroughly investigated,” we can save two words and cut down reading.

**Comment [AC24]:** This is passive voice – in essays we should use the active voice, i.e. “I found no mistake” to give you a greater sense of agency.

**Comment [AC25]:** Again, this paragraph is too long so we should cut it in half.

**Comment [AC26]:** Not here how you joined two sentences without a conjunction. This is called a run-on sentence.

Instead of turning upset, Chip showed his gratitude to me for sharing information and further discussed with me on future practices using various mouse strains.

From this experience, I learned the importance of analyzing problems by oneself rather than following the mainstream, and subsequently founding a solid base to support one's viewpoint. I felt particularly proud that my carefulness and determination had save valuable time and cost for my laboratory. Another equally important lesson I learned is that the respectful attitude is a determining factor to build good relationship even at the time when the opposite views are held.

Essay 2: Please tell us about a time when you defended your idea. (500 words or less, limited to one page)

At Johns Hopkins I led a project to devise a new mouse model of neurodegenerative disease, creating a robust method for screening therapeutic drugs. I genetically modified mouse embryonic stem (ES) cells to emulate disease and submitted them to the university facility to be implanted into developing mouse embryos. The newborn mouse carries tissues from both modified ES cells and the original embryo, thus serving as a disease model.

A mouse model is successfully created only if the mouse can produce offspring with the same genetic modifications. After repeated attempts, however, I could not obtain such offspring. The problem could have been either my ES cells or the mouse embryos used by the facility. The technologists in the facility, experts in this technical specialty for years, attributed the failure to the quality of my ES cells, and my supervisor agreed.

Without knowing the root cause of the problem, I thoroughly investigated each step I had performed, but I found no mistake. I started questioning the mouse embryos used in the facility, but once again Chip, the facility manager, reasoned that the facility had already been successful with this kind of embryo hundreds of times. Their resolve against trying embryos from other mouse strains made me realize that I needed solid evidence to support my idea.

I gathered information from the internet, research journals, and experts worldwide. In particular, Aurora Burds Connor, Director of the Mouse ES Cells and Transgenics Facility at MIT, explained how the growth rate of embryos from different mouse strains could affect the outcome of the experiments. In my case, the growth rate of my ES cells may have been too low to be compatible with the Hopkins facility's cells. With data I convinced my supervisor of my problem and collaborated with a facility at another university that was open to using other mouse strains. Three months later, I successfully generated the mouse model of disease.

Despite Chip's decision not to work with different mouse strains, I decided to inform him of my success to benefit the Johns Hopkins research community and improve the facility. During our conversation, I humbly acknowledged the insufficiency of my planning rather than escaping the responsibility for my experimental failure. Chip showed his gratitude to me for sharing information and discussed future practices using various mouse strains with me.

From this experience, I learned the importance of analyzing problems by oneself rather than following the mainstream, and the necessity of forming a solid base to support one's viewpoint. I felt particularly proud that my carefulness and determination had saved valuable time and cost for my laboratory. An equally important lesson was that a respectful attitude is crucial to building good relationships even in times of conflict.

### Essay 3 Comments

There are not too many comments to make on this essay. I reorganized its structure in some parts, added to your conclusion, and fixed clunky sentences and phrases. I think you told a great story here.

#### Essay 3: Please tell us about a time when you executed a plan. (500 words or less, limited to one page)

After I joined my current working place in 2005, I found that radioactive materials, which are hazardous to environment and human health, were extensively used in the Division. Additionally, they are costly because of their requirement on special handling and their inability to last long. Although radioactivity is a part of standard protocols in many applications, some nontoxic reagents have been discovered with similar functions as biotechnology booms in recent years. Desiring to improve the working conditions and use money efficiently, I started to execute a plan of replacing these dangerous materials.

After talking with representatives of several biotechnology companies, I listed the candidate substances and gathered the necessary data to assess the feasibility of their usage in my laboratory. There were many things to consider—the availability of equipment needed to detect the signal, the sensitivity of the signal generated, the cost and time period to take for one experiment, and so on. After analyzing a variety of factors, I developed a plan in which a nontoxic target could best serve our experimental needs. I reported my well-designed protocol to my supervisor and got the approval within an hour of discussion.

I ran my protocol to test its practicality and reproducibility before I could advertize it to my colleagues. After optimizing conditions in several pilot experiments, I was able to get the result of consistent, high quality using the nontoxic material. I was ready in a position to sell my plan. To efficiently attract my colleagues, I decided to take a quick survey in order to preview their preferences and concerns. As the information that I collected indicated, some people showed more resistance to new method because they got used to old protocol, then I planned to highlight the easy use of new material to this group of people; some other people showed their worries on signal sensitivity, therefore I could convince them with the results of my pilot experiments. After customized advertisement to individuals' needs, my plan received extensive popularity. Our laboratory abandoned using radioactive materials three months later, and even people in other research group adopted nontoxic reagents that I recommended.

The success of this plan is very meaningful to me although it is not part of my designated work responsibility. As I brought the edge-cutting technology into our working place, we researchers felt directly how our work on biotechnology could possibly change the environment around us. This project marked my maturity and initiative. I saw its benefit to each individual and the entire working group, conveyed my vision to my colleagues, and managed it to completion. I did so only because of my careful planning and my ability to effectively motivate people, which I hope to help me make contributions to Sloan community.

**Comment [AC27]:** Be specific again – Johns Hopkins?

**Comment [AC28]:** What exactly is the Division? Do you mean your department? If so, you should say so. By capitalizing Division, you make it seem like a special entity.

**Comment [AC29]:** Here you need the past tense since you ran the protocol in the past.

**Comment [AC30]:** Advertise is spelled with an S.

**Comment [AC31]:** “ready” and “in a position” mean the same thing, so you only need one of them.

**Comment [AC32]:** I think a better organization would be to move the last two sentences to the last paragraph, and to start a new paragraph here. We are therefore separating your preparation for the advertisement from the actual advertisement.

**Comment [AC33]:** See here how you can just say you “took a quick survey” and reduce two words?

**Comment [AC34]:** I think this is a great point since you preemptively investigated people's concerns to address them. I am going to discuss this more in the conclusion.

**Comment [AC35]:** Try to avoid semicolons when you can. They make the sentence quite long and difficult to read. In most cases it is better to split them into two sentences.

**Comment [AC36]:** Here you need the plural – research groups – since there are multiple ones.

**Comment [AC37]:** This is a good conclusion

Essay 3: Please tell us about a time when you executed a plan. (500 words or less, limited to one page)

After I joined Johns Hopkins in 2005, I found that radioactive materials, which are hazardous to the environment and human health, were extensively used in my department. Additionally, they are costly because they require special handling and have short lifetimes. Although radioactivity is a part of standard protocols in many applications, some nontoxic reagents have been discovered with similar functions in recent years. Desiring to improve the working conditions and use money more efficiently, I decided to execute a plan of replacing these dangerous materials.

After talking with representatives of several biotechnology companies, I listed the candidate substances and assessed the feasibility of their usage in my laboratory. There were many things to consider – the availability of equipment needed to detect the signal, the sensitivity of the signal generated, the cost and time required for one experiment, and so on. After analyzing a variety of factors, I developed a plan in which a non-toxic target could best serve our experimental needs. I reported my well-designed protocol to my supervisor and received approval within an hour of discussion. I ran my protocol to test its practicality and reproducibility before I could advertise it to my colleagues. After optimizing conditions in several pilot experiments, I was able to demonstrate consistently high quality using the nontoxic material. I was ready to sell my plan.

To efficiently convince my colleagues, I took a quick survey to preview their preferences and concerns. Some people were resistant to the new method because they were accustomed to the old protocol, so I planned to highlight the easy use of new material to this group. Others worried about signal sensitivity, so I explained in detail the results of my pilot experiments. Because of my customized advertisement to individuals' needs, my plan received extensive popularity. Our laboratory abandoned radioactive materials three months later, and people in other research groups adopted the nontoxic reagents that I recommended.

The success of this plan is very meaningful to me although it is not part of my designated work responsibility. Recognizing the environmental and health impact of the status quo marked my maturity, and changing the status quo marked my initiative. I saw the benefit of my plan to each individual and the entire working group, conveyed my vision to my colleagues, and managed it to completion. I also anticipated the concerns of my audience and addressed them individually, a technique that can be generalized to many other situations. I hope to bring my careful planning and ability to motivate people effectively to Sloan and make contributions to its community.

## Essay 4 Comments

This is a good story, but you need to be clearer about what you want the admissions committee to know. For example, what quality do you want to emphasize? Your sense of responsibility for the lives of patients over your own academic prestige, or perhaps your desire to innovate a new disease model? Furthermore, why is this something that isn't discussed in the previous essays?

You should make these points clear in the introduction and conclusion of this brief essay. I have added a point like this in the conclusion of the edited essay.

Also, this is much over the word limit, so I will work to make the essay more concise.

### **Essay 4: Please tell the Admissions Committee whatever else you would like us to know. (250 words or less, limited to one page)**

I attribute my success in current work assignment to my sense of optimism and determination that have directed me to pursue my goal of marrying research findings with their applications. My project is to make genetically engineered mice, which carried a genetic mutation causing spinal cord disorders in human patients in order to produce similar symptoms, and then to screen therapeutic drugs. I successfully generated such mice after several months. However, the mice failed to develop the symptoms observed in clinic; this situation occasionally occurs because of the species difference. Therefore, this mouse model was not suitable to assess the therapeutic effect of drugs. However, I had also discovered some novel physiological findings from this mouse model that were not part of our original focus, bringing me to a crossroads--either to continue this current project, from which I could produce valuable publishable work, the ultimate mark of excellence for a scientist, or to start over with a new mouse model, which could result in no symptoms again after an additional year of work. I had to make a choice between certainty and risk, between the opportunity to earn the esteem of being published and my lab's collective goal of curing diseases.

As my goal guided me through decision making, one more publication did not carry as much weight as discovering a treatment that would affect the lives of patients and their families. I had also thoroughly considered the risk of taking on an entirely new project, a primary warning from my lab colleagues. While risk of failure is bound to every success – Thomas's Edison's example of succeeding in inventing the light bulb after thousands of failures always inspires me – my consideration ultimately included my obligation to contribute to my workplace. Fruitful scientific research depends on a combination of independent thinking and collaboration, which had already granted me success in the form of seven publications in prestigious journals.

Putting my heart and soul into my new project paid off; I finally established an animal model of disease ready for drug screening.

**Comment [AC38]:** This is good. We can emphasize your preference of humanity over personal accomplishment here.

**Comment [AC39]:** This is a cliché, and we should avoid overused expressions.

Essay 4: Please tell the Admissions Committee whatever else you would like us to know. (250 words or less, limited to one page)

In my current position I made a difficult decision regarding my project. My aim is to create genetically engineered mice exhibiting spinal cord disorders seen in human patients. These mice would be valuable models to screen therapeutic drugs. I successfully generated such mice after several months, but they failed to develop the symptoms observed in humans, possibly because of the species difference.

This mouse model was therefore not suitable to assess the therapeutic effect of drugs. However, I had discovered novel physiological findings from this mouse model, bringing me to a cross roads: I could continue this project and produce valuable publishable work, or start over with a new mouse model that could fail again. I had to make a choice between certainty and risk, between earning esteem in published papers and my lab's collective goal of curing diseases.

I realized that discovering a treatment benefiting the lives of patients and their families trumped the value of an additional publication. Taking on an entirely new project at this stage was risky, but I was determined. Fruitful scientific research depends on independent thinking and collaboration, and I could achieve both by leading a new project that would benefit my group.

My efforts paid off – I finally established an animal model of disease ready for drug screening. Throughout my career, I will work with the same principles exemplified by this experience – always ready to strike my own path despite the risks, and always keeping the ultimate goal of the patient in mind.