

1. We are looking for passionate students to join our diverse community of scholars, researchers, and artists. Answer this question, which corresponds to the school/program you selected above, in a half page or roughly 250 words.

School of Engineering and Applied Sciences - If you were given funding for a small engineering project that would make everyday life better for one friend or family member, what would you do?

I can picture myself handing eight-year old Max the gun. His face glows with unadulterated delight, his mind sifting through all the possibilities his new firearm provides. Okay, when I say bullets, I imply LEGO bricks, and by firearm I mean a LEGO brick-shooter.

As his babysitter, I long to give back to a budding creator like myself (Max and I share a youthful obsession for LEGO tinkering), especially if this means launching LEGOs with the flick of a trigger—awesome! For the trigger I will use an “L” technic beam swiveling on a pin, its end just jutting into the chamber. Allowing for swift travel of the projectile and the hammer launching it, two lengthy, smooth pieces will comprise the chamber’s floor. They will fall short of the back end, where the the trigger will jut out to hold the hammer in place. The hammer will consist of a cross axle and a small Technic beam to serve as the contact surface on the brick projectiles. Two rubber bands will impart tension on each end of the cross axle extending laterally through the chamber’s sides. These components, albeit sounding hectic in written-word, will harmonize to produce a functional and efficient mechanism—I just have to instruct Max on its workings.

Knowing Max, he will probably snatch the gun from my hands and take off to indulge in the creation, having half-listened the whole time. I don’t mind; his self-discoveries and entertainment are my fulfillment.

2. Required of ALL applicants, regardless of school or program. Answer one of the following questions in a half page or roughly 250 words (Please select the prompt you are responding to):
What's your favorite word and why?
Please provide your response here:

Hi is the prologue of family reunions; it’s the opening credits of Physics PowerPoint presentations; it’s the informal prerequisite of the 5-Oaks lifeguard interview; it’s the small talk

of small talk. Many uphold the syllable as an instinctual ritual, thus putting as much effort into its expression as the apathetic smile accompanying it. I disagree: due to its daily frequency, the manner in which hi is expressed is vital. While a muffled “hi...” projected to shoelaces can be first impression suicide, a chirpy “Hi!” full of rich, savory flavor, can spawn rapport before conversation even commences. Assuming the latter approach is used, “Hi!” enhances reputation. Greeting others shows you care enough to pipe vocal chords and flex cheek muscles without prompting. “Hi!” is the two letter substitute for, “You! You’re worth it!” Isn’t that sweet? Personally, hi is the hallmark of courage. Its utterance is rebellion against worries—What if she doesn’t remember me? What if he doesn’t hear me the first time? Will they even know where the closest Chipotle is? It takes guts to utter the first word amidst a library lounge, a DMV lobby, an ascending elevator. Saying hi to a stranger is like asking my manager for a small pay raise: you’re unsure if she will explode in piping hot denial, but you are sure stuck to deal with the consequences regardless.

While hi can be a giant leap of faith, it mainly reflects my value for doing the little things well.