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be astronomical.
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**ASSIGN
BUSTER**

It was just a few years ago, when I had heard the announcement about the discovery of gravitational waves. At that moment, I frantically sifted through all the articles I could find online, for I knew it was potentially the discovery of the century. My curiosity only dragged me further into the world of gravitational physics, and I soon found myself reading about Einstein's theories of relativity, Quantum mechanics, and the concept of interferometry. On reading more about the latter, I came to know of LIGO's role in that historical discovery, how Caltech was tied up in all of this. It was at that moment I had fallen in love with Caltech.

Ever since I was a child, I always had a fascination for the universe and our connection with it, but only after LIGO's discovery did I truly get invested in becoming a theoretical physicist. As a matter of fact, I could say that Caltech, in a sense, helped shape my interests in STEM and research. I think it goes without saying that if Caltech could fuel my curiosity for scientific exploration so easily and so quickly already, the scale at which I would thrive by directly being a part of the institute would be astronomical. Unlike most pop-artists, I don't intend on becoming a one-hit wonder. I possess a burning desire to not only contribute to humanity's pursuit of knowledge, but to also make a lasting (and not temporary) impact on the world. However, it's blatant wishful thinking to consider having an impact on the world without the right environment, for one needs to always keep that fire burning within them.

And what better place is there to keep my passions burning than the very place which set them alight to being with. My intellectual curiosity set a need to become different and a need to look beyond what is already established. This is where Caltech, with its utmost respect in intellectual diversity, makes

me feel at home. Passion isn't all that matters though. I don't claim to be a 'Mary Sue', for I know that I possess a heap of flaws such as the lack of a research background, and the tendency to go overboard with my fantasies.

I'll be damned though if let those flaws hold me back, and I believe Caltech is the right place where I can turn those flaws into my strengths. No longer will I be mocked for thinking about the possibility of splitting the universe into energy levels, and no longer will I fear dreaming about the impossible. In conclusion, I think Caltech's atmosphere is perfect for someone who thrives in being different and their support towards creating people who make a difference in today's world serves as proof. Caltech isn't just a simple means to a future, but it's truly the cradle for people with visions. Only time will tell where life takes me, but I certainly won't regret seizing this opportunity to make my dreams into reality.