Growing up in India, I was surrounded by inequality. Slums were adjacent to high-rise buildings, filled with well-to-do, upper-middle class families. I often interacted with day laborers who worked in my neighborhood, and found that they were, in no way, intellectually inferior to those who were employing them. Yet they were greatly disadvantaged by having to spend each day securing for their most basic needs. On my walk to school each morning, I watched children my age wash neighborhood cars, just so they could buy something to eat that day.

I take for granted a warm home and food to eat. But why am I entitled to these things, as compared to the children who washed my dad's car? My goal is to create commercially-viable Artificial Intelligence (AI) solutions that improve universal access to basic life necessities. An MBA would position me to accomplish this goal.

My first priority is to obtain a solid, quality management education, along with some formal education in AI. I want to connect with industry leaders who can help me obtain practical experience in AI. I would like to obtain a summer internship in AI, but seek other hands-on learning opportunities as well. I would like to be surrounded by classmates who challenge my entrepreneurial ideas from diverse viewpoints. Lastly, I will need to connect with investors who are interested in financing Artificial Intelligence ventures.

I used to live in New York, and loved it, so Stern was already on my radar. The question was, is NYC home to companies that are doing some interesting things with Artificial Intelligence? The answer was yes. I found FaceBook Research, IBM Watson, Google Research, and IPSoft, among others. Also, NYC is home to a wide range of venture capital firms. I would like to see what local VCs are investing in by networking with them both on and off campus.

Turning to my network, two of my friends have recently graduated from Stern. One expressed that she had the freedom to customize the curriculum to fit her specific goals, and that she liked the collaborative vibe at Stern. I liked hearing this - I knew I would receive a first-rate management education with the core curriculum; at the same time, I could take AI-related courses as well. Given my ambitions, it's important for me to be in a more collaborative than competitive environment.

Another friend said he found it easy to set up informational interviews with industry experts, who inevitably passed through NYC on business. I had already waxed poetic in my mind, setting up informational interviews with NYC-based organizational leaders in AI, but the idea of extending my reach in this way really appealed to me.

Next, I started my research on the NYU Stern website. The experiential learning opportunities are very robust. I am excited about the Stern Signature Projects program, and would hope to complete it under the advisement of Professor Yan LeCun, who leads the Facebook AI research group in NYC.  The Innovation Lab seminar series would help me to discern which AI research projects have commercial viability. I plan to take part in the Venture Competition, and obtain support and feedback from experienced entrepreneurs through the Venture Mentor Network. Ultimately, I would love to pitch for funding from the Innovation Venture Fund at NYU. Reviewing the class profile, my colleagues would have substantive work experience and come from diverse industries. I can see myself having some deep, philosophical conversations over a beer by joining the Entrepreneur's Exchange. After viewing the, "Day in the Life of a Stern MBA" videos, I sense that the culture and overall dynamic of Stern would be an outstanding fit for me. The students seem driven and focused, but also open minded, progressive, and not without a sense of humor.

With regards to my future plans, I want to learn from the experts first. Currently, Google is the largest employer in Artificial Intelligence, and my goal would be to obtain a summer internship with Google as an AI Software Engineer. Upon graduation, I'd like to be hired as a Product Manager for Google's Search Division, which relies heavily upon AI algorithms.

I recently read about how AI is being used in exoskeletons, as a means to help disabled people walk. Blind people can become more independent by using self-driving cars to get their groceries. The inequality and suffering I witnessed in India has made me into a firm believer that each person deserves an equal shot at success, despite physical or financial disadvantages. Upon gaining corporate-level AI experience, I hope to create Artificial Intelligence solutions that level the playing field by empowering the physically and economically disadvantaged.