1. **Describe an experience in the past 2-3 years that you think will help you on an exchange program. Explain how.**

I have always loved travelling, meeting new people and their cultures, and I like it when I have a chance to introduce our Hungarian culture to others. I have some friends overseas, from other nations and nationalities, and the key to understand each other is mostly the English language. Talking to a native speaker of English has helped me learn and practice new words and phrases. However it’s very different to be in connection via the Internet from meeting new people face-to-face and being able to talk to them without the help of a dictionary or a translator program.

Almost exactly a year ago, I spent over a week in England with some other students. We visited England and France, and on the way there and back stopped in Germany and Austria. We visited some famous places, and we had a chance to get to know new people and new environments. I discovered the culture, habits and daily life of other nations, and a lot of things that are normal for them but which Hungarian people don’t do it.

This experience helped me to gain deeper knowledge and widen my perspective on the culture and history of another country and its people.

I think that the experience, the capability to fit in in a new situation, to re-invent yourself in a new environment and open-mindedness are important, helpful and required in an exchange program.

1. **Describe a time in the past 2-3 years when you did not get something that you wanted very much. How did you react? What did you do?**

I have a lot of hobbies – I like reading, making cakes, rollerskating, taking photos, crocheting – but what I like most is writing stories. I have taken part in a lot of competitions and won prizes in the past few years.

There’s a big factory in a town near where I live and they announce a scholarship each year for a certain number of primary and secondary school students in their vicinity. I wanted to take part in 2018. The first step was to write a list of one’s academic or sports results and submit it to one’s head of class teacher. I did so, but my teacher didn’t approve of my application because as a PE teacher he preferred sports results over mine. So I didn’t even get to the second round in which the head of school decides which ten applications to forward to the factory committee who decide about the scholarship.

First I was very disappointed. I felt I had worked in vain and that it was not right to be rejected because all my results were in language arts. Then I decided to work harder and take part in even more competitions so that I wouldn’t be rejected again. And so did I.

By the following year I had an even longer list of achievements which I decided to forward not only to the head of class but to the head teacher as well. This time I succeeded. My full application including my results and plans for the future was forwarded to the committee and I won the scholarship. And at the winners’ announcement ceremony my friends and I even gave a performance – I played the guitar and we also sang a song. I was very happy that I didn’t give up after the first try.

1. **We all have friends, but sometimes friends have different opinions. Give an example of a situation in the past two years when you and your friend had different opinions. What did you do? Why?**

The usage of mobile phones is a current issue in all schools I think. This was a topic which often came up in chats with my friends. My best friend and I were of different opinions. I felt that students’ use of mobile phones should be restricted because a lot of my schoolmates used them with the wrong intentions and often violated other kid’s rights by taking photos of them and making videos without permission.

My best friend on the other hand thought that students above a certain age should be let to use their phones if they wanted to – with the exception of lessons. She said that this way those who do not like to talk to others can spend their free time meaningfully. She said that the solution was to educate children on safe and proper phone use.

I, on the other hand, argued that there are lessons each year about internet safety and and the right use of phones. Still, there are always problems.

Although our opinion differed I understood and accepted that my best friend was right in some points so I thought a lot about how we could compromise. Then I had an idea which I felt was worth coming forward with. My idea was that we should find some space in the school building with internet access where pupils and students could use their phones under the supervision of teachers and/or older pupils or perhaps members of the student council.

As a class representative in the student council I initiated a debate about this issue. Unfortunately, although a lot of fellow students and teachers approved of it, my plan could not be carried through due to the lack of resources.

