**SAMPLE – Union College, Diversity Overnight Application Essay**

Ranking: 2 on personal statement rubric

Essay Prompt: Please write a brief essay explaining why you are interested in attending this program. (125 word min/200 word max) \*

I appreciate the chance to try new things; unfortunately, I don’t really get the chance to do that. Last Sunday was the first time that I ever had Thai food. Though not entirely life changing this cultural experience introduced me to something new and left me wanting more. Blending academics and social experiences seems like the best of both worlds to me. High school has forced me to separate these two experiences as if it is not possible for me to learn in both areas. The Minerva Program makes it possible for students to blend the two so that there will be a balance. Learning in nontraditional settings gives me a chance to engage with my peers in a less formal way, but still provides information that enriches our perspectives.