Kwame Owusu

Atlanta, GA · kwame.owusu.test@example.com Applying to: Harvard Business School MBA, 2026-27

This is a fictional applicant written for this PrepMyRound sample. Corvane Power, the Westside Weatherization Collective, the Akwaaba Youth Soccer League and both recommenders are invented.

Program and round

- Two-year MBA, Class of 2029. Round 2 (January 2027 deadline).

Education

- **Georgia Institute of Technology** - BS Industrial Engineering, May 2021. GPA 3.34. Zell Miller Scholarship (lost after sophomore spring, regained junior year).
- Thermodynamics, spring 2018: D. Retaken summer 2018: B. That semester GPA was 2.61. Every semester after that was 3.4 or above.
- Two co-op semesters at Corvane Power (fall 2019, summer 2020).
- **Georgia State University** (evening, non-degree): Corporate Finance, A- (spring 2026). I took it because my budget reviews kept exposing how little finance I knew.

Test

- GMAT Focus Edition (September 2026): 665 (Quantitative 85, Verbal 80, Data Insights 82). Second sitting; first was 615 in May 2026.

Resume

CORVANE POWER - Atlanta, GA (Jul 2021 - present) *Investor-owned electric utility, 1.3 million customers in Georgia and Alabama, about 6,200 employees.*

Project Manager, Grid Storage & Interconnection (Apr 2024 - present)

- Lead delivery of Corvane's first three utility-owned battery sites (95 MW / 380 MWh total, $210M budget). Team of 4 engineers and 2 contractor crews. Report to the Director of Grid Storage.
- Griffin site (40 MW) energized August 2025, two weeks early. During the January 2026 cold snap it supplied 31 MW at the morning peak, enough to avoid rotating outages in two counties.
- Cartersville site (35 MW) is running 7 months late. I built the schedule around a 52-week transformer lead time that became 81 weeks. I changed our procurement rule: long-lead equipment is now ordered before final siting approval. That carries up to $1.4M in cancellation risk, which I proposed and the VP approved.

- Run the queue tracker for 140 third-party solar and storage interconnection requests. Average study time fell from 14 to 10 months.
- Tested a vendor's machine-learning tool that drafts interconnection study scopes. It misread 3 of 20 feeder configurations, so we kept it for first-pass screening only. An engineer signs every final study.

Distribution Planning Engineer (Jul 2021 - Mar 2024)

- Forecast summer and winter load for 210 feeders south of Atlanta. Flagged 18 likely overloads before summer 2023; 16 were upgraded in time.
- Modeled 2.1 GW of data-center service requests in 2023, about a third of the region's current peak. My analysis became part of the case for the storage program.
- Presented feeder upgrade plans at 9 county commission meetings.
- Converted from co-op to full-time; promoted after 2 years and 9 months.

ADDITIONAL

- Volunteer crew lead, Westside Weatherization Collective, Atlanta (2022 - present, about 6 hours a month). Sealing, insulation and smart thermostats for low-income homeowners. 74 homes so far.
- Volunteer coach, under-12 boys, Akwaaba Youth Soccer League, Marietta (2023 - present, 4 hours a week in season).
- Languages: English (native), Twi (fluent spoken, basic reading).
- Skills: PSS/E and CYME power-flow software, Python, SQL, MS Project, Excel modeling.
- Interests: cooking jollof for too many people, Atlanta United season ticket, online chess (rated 1450, stuck there for two years).

Career goals (short answer)

Short term, I want to join a developer or infrastructure fund that builds battery storage and solar in emerging markets, in a project development or investment role. Long term, I want to lead a company that builds battery-backed power for industrial zones in West Africa, starting in Ghana.

Essay 1 - Business leadership (250 words)

In March 2024 our VP asked whether Corvane should own batteries or buy their output from a developer. I was a planning engineer, and I had built the model showing how much data-center load was coming. He asked me to lead the internal case for owning the first sites.

My model said ownership would be about 9% cheaper over 20 years. But finance's cheapest option relied on a developer contract with penalties we could not enforce during a grid emergency. I made the decision about what to recommend: own the first three sites, so we would learn how to operate batteries, then buy capacity from developers after that. I wrote the reliability section myself. I also asked the operators who would actually dispatch the batteries to review it, which nobody had done before. They caught two control assumptions I had wrong.

The regulators approved $210M. I was asked to run the project, my first job managing people. Griffin came in early. Cartersville did not, and that one is on me. I trusted a supplier's lead time without checking it against the market. I told my director the day I knew, brought a revised schedule within a week, and changed how we buy equipment.

What I learned: being right in a model is the easy part. The project only worked because the people operating it trusted it.

Essay 2 - Leadership growth (250 words)

After my third county commission meeting in 2022, my manager, Marcus Bell, told me something I did not want to hear. Commissioners thought I was talking down to them. I had shown 14 slides of feeder loading charts to a room in Spalding County that wanted to know why their road would be dug up for six weeks.

I had thought clear data was respect. Marcus said it was a wall. I started calling the county manager a week before each meeting to ask what residents were actually worried about. I cut my decks to four slides. I brought a lineman who lived in the county. In Butts County I changed the trench route after a farmer showed me where his drainage ran. It cost $38,000, and the vote went 5-0.

I still default to data first. Now I catch it.

Essay 3 - Personal background (300 words)

I was nine when my family moved from Kumasi to Marietta. In Kumasi, power went out most evenings during the 2007 dumsor crisis. My mother, a nurse, studied for her U.S. licensing exam by kerosene lamp. In Georgia the lights simply stayed on, and I did not think about why until a Georgia Tech professor showed us what keeps a grid stable.

I chose Georgia Tech because it was in-state, the scholarship made it affordable, and it had the best engineering school I could get into. Sophomore year I nearly lost all of it. I was working 15 hours a week at a campus dining hall, overloaded on courses, and too proud to go to office hours. I earned a D in Thermodynamics and lost my scholarship for a year. I retook the course that summer, joined a study group, and learned to ask for help early. I still use that habit.

My co-op at Corvane was meant to be a summer job. I stayed full-time because Corvane let a 22-year-old run real load forecasts. I stayed after that because storage arrived on my desk.

On visits to Ghana, my uncle's cold-storage business in the Kumasi industrial zone still runs a diesel generator four hours a day. I want to build the battery-backed grid that retires it.

Why HBS (short answer)

I know how to build a project. I do not know how to finance one in a currency that can lose 30% in a year, or how to lead a company rather than a crew. The case method would make me practice decisions with incomplete information every day. That is the part of my job I want to get better at.

Recommenders

- **Diane Kessler**, Director, Grid Storage, Corvane Power (current supervisor, since 2024).
- **Marcus Bell**, Manager, Distribution Planning, Corvane Power (supervisor, 2021-2024).