**Prompt #1**

***Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.***

A lot of people have the impression of me as a selfless and nurturing person, but little did they know I wasn’t always this way. I was a very spoiled and self-centered child when I was younger; everything had to revolve around me. It was the combination of an unfortunate experience and the role model in my mom that changed everything.

My mom is a very loving person. Ever since my siblings and I started going to school, she would always cook for us and bring us the food during lunch to make sure we got healthy and warm food. Not only that, she would always help us with our school work and communicate with teachers to help us improve. On the complete opposite, I was pampered and self-centered. I'd become furious if things didn't go my way. Everything I wanted should be completed regardless of whether my parents were tired or didn’t have the time.

Everything changed in the blink of an eye. My mom suddenly stopped cooking and bringing us food to school. She also stopped helping us with our school work. I was lost in disbelief, I didn’t think that my mother who loves cooking and going to school with me would suddenly stop doing those routines. Ever since, I started to rebel and throw temper tantrums with the main goal of possibly attracting my parents’ attention, especially mom’s. The house would look like a *kapal pecah,* a shipwreck, all the time. The mess, and the cold, unhappy aura of a house, they began chipping away at my family.

It was two years later when I found out the truth about why she stopped doing her routines that time period: my mom had been diagnosed with cervical cancer.

“We decided to keep this information away from you kids so it wouldn’t affect your mental state,” my father said. “Now that you are more mature, we feel like it’s the right time to tell you guys.”

I felt really guilty after hearing this news. During those hard times not only did I not help out the family but I made it a living hell for them. I started to see things from a clearer lens, how this situation had massively affected my family. My father was stressed out, my mom was unlively, the house was a mess and the aura was depressing to say the least. I couldn’t take it anymore. I needed to replenish our family’s vigor.

I decided to at least help out the household and try to take on mom's role in the house cooking, chores, and taking care of my siblings. At the beginning, I was clueless about everything. I messed up a lot. I would make burnt fried eggs, collect dust on one corner, make my siblings uncomfortable. The house gradually seemed brighter as I improved doing house chores.

In the year 2018, after all this mess, my mom has recovered and the environment of the family has never been happier. Looking back, I realized that I have grown up a lot during this process. Due to my mom’s absence at that time, all the responsibilities and pressure was on me which allowed me to turn from a self centered and spoiled child to a responsible, independent, caring and overall more matured person. Most importantly, my growth as a person changed the atmosphere in the house which set a better environment for my siblings and I to grow up in. I believe that my growth will be a constant advantage in my life; my independent character and responsibility could help me go through a lot of hardships. No matter what I face, I will find a way to overcome it by myself and at the same time be responsible to my family.

Hi David!

This essay is structured well, but it needs some elaboration throughout to really bring out the emotion and reflection that you felt and experienced, so that the reader can empathise with you. I’ve written down some questions throughout the essay that you can use to elaborate on the story a little bit. Use sensory details (think about what you saw during that time, what you smelled or heard or tasted) and show us a little more of what you were thinking & feeling, so that the reader can imagine themselves in your shoes.

Good luck on your revisions!

Chiara & Caroline

ALL-in Essay Editors