***Discuss an accomplishment, event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others.***

Have you ever woken up and unexpectedly seen more than a million people view your post?

I grew up in an environment where my friends doubted me as my capabilities weren't on par with the popular kids. I initially accepted that no one would ever notice me, let alone be popular. My self-doubt led me to become quiet and reserved. I preferred keeping my opinions to myself since I thought my views were unnecessary, and no one would bother listening to what I had to say.

However, I decided to use TikTok to post a critique a few months ago. I voiced my concern about Indonesian-assembled Hondas, pointing out the flaws of the built quality, which my mom's new car has a problem with. The trims attached to the doors were not appropriately secured. Considering how much my mom paid for this car, I was disappointed. My goal with the video was to let people know about Honda's awful quality control, yet it did more than that.

Never have I seen that many views count on any video I made, let alone a TikTok. This was unexpected as I didn't think the video would reach out to hundreds of FYPs. At that point, I didn't know what to do or react. I looked at the comments and was amazed by the number of people who relate to my critique. The feeling of getting more recognition from other people I never interacted with is exciting. Still, I'm also worried that there might be a negative consequence, such as hateful comments or worse, the company I'm critiquing sends a subpoena.

It didn't take long until I got a message from a Honda representative. “Oh lord, it's happening,” I said. The world stopped at that moment, and my face went pale. With my heart thumping loudly, I read the message.

It turns out that the factory's representative in which their factory produced my mom's car wanted to have a look at the vehicle and inspect what was wrong with it. I was 16 then and had never talked to a corporate official before. They found that weak adhesive was the reason for the falling trims and later fixed it free of charge.

The people from Honda were accepting, and even though I spoke badly about their cars, they were open to discussions and feedback to improve themselves. They listened to what I said, which contrasts my initial mindset, making me realize that one's voice matters, regardless of age and status, and that people have to voice them responsibly and for a good cause.

Since then, I have also started publishing different content types in addition to critiquing. I create other content, such as reviewing air fresheners or commenting on newly launched cars. I'm very passionate about examining new cars' features and comparing different vehicles on the market, which helps people make better decisions. My follower count grew to 4000, and my likes have reached 240,000+. My TikTok account also aims to inform and educate people about specific car updates and products, which indirectly helps car brands to know what people expect from a product.

I learned the power of words and how they can help and heal not only others but ourselves too, and this is what I have aspired to do with my TikTok or other social media platforms since then. I want to contribute to society through articles and videos about my hobbies, cars, and gadgets. I aim that in every work I publish, an individual must learn something from it. We all can learn from each other and solve problems along the way. TikTok and other platforms are not only a source of entertainment; it is a place for inspiration and advocacy. Though it is not an easy job, the enthusiasm from viewers is my driving force to keep creating and helping others.

Hi Indra,

Interesting story! For your revision, I would cut some of your initial paragraphs about your self-doubt and instead write more about how after learning the lesson, you channelled your energy into turning your TikTok account into something more intentional & educational.

If you find all this reflection a little abstract, start with thinking about what it is you want to convey through this story. Write it in one sentence. What I’m picking up is that you want to show that everyone’s voice matters, but correct me if I’m wrong!

Then, once you have this sentence, read each paragraph one by one and ask yourself: does this paragraph support my point? As a reader, I felt like you still strayed from the main point occasionally. The connection between ‘everyone’s voice matters’ and ‘advocacy & education is important’ is still unclear, and is advocacy the right conclusion to your story? Is advocacy the answer to the self-doubt you mentioned in the beginning?

Good luck on your revisions!

Caroline & Chiara