***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 my ……. because it took me a while to catch up with trends or new gadgets. I initially accepted that no one would notice me, and I would always be a wallflower. My self-doubt led me to become quiet and reserved. I preferred to keep my opinions to myself since my friends didn't take my voice seriously. It made me feel that my views were unnecessary and that no one would bother listening to what I had to say.

However, one day, I decided to use TikTok to post a critique a few months ago because there was an issue with my mom's car that deserved some attention. I voiced my concern about Indonesian-assembled Hondas, pointing out the flaws of the built quality, such as unsecured armrests and falling door trims. The assembler had not secured the trims attached to the doors properly. 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, but it ended up doing much more than that.

Never have I seen that many views on any video I had made, let alone a TikTok. At that point, I didn't know what to do or how to react. I looked at the comments and was amazed by the number of people who related to my critique. The feeling of getting recognition from people I had never interacted with was exciting. Still, I was worried that I would receive hateful comments or a subpoena from Honda.

In fact, it didn't take long before I got a message from a Honda representative. The world stopped at that moment, and my face went pale. With my heart thumping loudly, I read the message.

It turns out that a representative of the factory from which my mom's car was produced wanted to 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 of my critique, and even though I spoke badly about their cars, they were open to discussion and feedback to improve themselves. They listened to me, which went against how I thought they would react. This made me realize—regardless of age and status—that one's voice matters, and it must be voiced responsibility for a good cause.

Since then, my follower count has grown to 4000, and my likes have reached 240,000+. I create other content now too, reviewing air fresheners and commenting on newly launched cars. I'm very passionate about examining the features of new cars and comparing different vehicles on the market, which helps people make better decisions. My TikTok account also aims to educate people on specific car updates and products to keep people informed on current automobile trends.

I learned about the power of words and how they can help and heal others and ourselves. This has become my motivation for using my TikTok and other social media platforms. This journey taught me to always be open to others and ourselves, and it helped me ease things when accepting new challenges and communicating with others. I now feel confident in expressing myself, which has made things easier for me so far.

Hi Indra,

Thank you for your submission! I see that you made your essay much more concise and highlighted the lesson you learned well. The only parts that you can expand now is the concluding paragraph. As for the ending, elaborating on how you feel confident (the way you talk, the way you behave now vs. before) will show the results of the experience better.

C.G.