**Brown students care deeply about their work and the world around them. Students find contentment, satisfaction, and meaning in daily interactions and major discoveries. Whether big or small, mundane or spectacular, tell us about something that brings you joy. (200-250 words)\***

One Saturday, my dad and I were conversing on politics and environmental issues until he randomly decided to teach me how to make coffee. He made it look easy by pouring in what seemed to be a fibonacci pattern. However, when I tried to do so, I couldn't follow the pattern. As he snickers looking at my panicked face, he guides my hands, giving a feel on how to do the "fibonacci" pouring.

When the coffee finished brewing, I took a sip. Flavors exploded, the acidity was in perfect moderation, allowing all sorts of notes such as caramel and berry to pop up. It was magical. We kept talking while drinking the coffee until mom shouted “dinner!".

Within the next week, whenever I pass by coffee shops, I would order a pour over. The baristas used the exact same beans, but they never tasted as good as the one my dad made. The following week I continued my search, again to no avail.

It has been 2 weeks since our last coffee session, and here I was again with a coffee facing my dad. I took a sip. Again, for some inexplicable reason, it tasted magical. After much pondering, I realized that it wasn’t good coffee that I was searching for. I was searching for quality time with my dad. Slowly conversing with my dad about random topics was what made drinking the coffee so enjoyable.

Hi Brian:

I love this story. I can feel your authenticity, a shot to the heart on the prompt :)

My suggestion is to always keep the main point of your essay in mind. It might help to write this point as one sentence and keep it at the top of your essay, right below the prompt, so that you can keep referring back to it.

Here, your topic is having quality time with your dad. The coffee is just a red herring. So in every paragraph, you want to make sure you’re highlighting the former and elaborating on it – I’ve written a few comments throughout to guide your revisions.

Another suggestion is to keep your writing short and simple. It’s okay to use more concise wording and shorter sentences to give nuance to the situation.

All the best!

Thalia & Chiara