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

I never thought about having this many followers, likes or even views before. I grew up in an environment where my friends doubted me as my capabilities weren’t on par with the popular kids. While the “cool kids” were confident with their speaking skills and could run fast, I was the complete opposite, and tended to be the odd one. I initially accepted the fact that I was never going to be noticed, let alone popular.

Years later, TikTok was THE social media platform, and I decided to explore it. The concept of TikTok is similar to Musically (well it’s the same platform, just with a different brand), and instead of posting some silly dances, I posted a critique. 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 that were attached to the doors were not attached properly, and considering how much my mom paid for this car, I was disappointed. Even a low-cost Toyota has a better fit and finish than my mom’s car. My goal with the video was just to let people know about Honda’s awful quality control, yet it did more than that.

I woke up the next day with 100 thousand views and the numbers kept on increasing. Never have I seen that view 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 nor react. I looked at the comments and found out that so many people are complaining about their Hondas, and it made me realize just how terrible Hondas are.

With the virality of my video, I felt like I’m a celebrity. I was eager to show my TikTok to the people who had doubted me. AHA I DID IT \_\_\_\_\_\_\_. I told my friends about my viral video and they were in utter disbelief. In school, I also got more recognition from the popular kids, in which my video reached their feeds.

Things got way over my head until I got a message from a Honda representative. The world stopped at that moment and I overthinked. Have they submitted a file against me in court?! Are they going to tell me to take the video down?! What do we do from here?

All of the questions went into my head, and since I want to get over it quickly, I opened the message. It turned out that the factory’s representative in which my mom’s car was produced wanted to have a look at the car, and inspect what’s wrong with it. They offered me to inspect the car at my house, but since the car was already at the workshop for an annual inspection, we exchanged dialogue there. I was 16 at the time, and never talked to a corporate official before. They asked me about what happened that resulted in the trims falling out, and they found out that weak adhesive is the reason for it. Since Honda knew my video had gathered 60k+ likes and generated mixed comments, they reattached the trims, and in front of my eyes stress tested the components, and it was fixed.

From the event, I realized that one’s voice matters, regardless of one’s age and status, and that people have to voice them responsibly and for a good cause. The people from Honda were accepting, and I too, felt comfortable discussing my mom’s car. Even though I speak badly about their cars, they are open to discussions and feedback, to improve themselves. This broke my thought of them blacklisting me from their brand, and thank God I won’t worry about it.

I learned the power of words and how it has the ability to help and heal, not only others, but ourselves too, and this is what I aspire to do with my TikTok or other social media platforms since then. I want to contribute to society through my articles and videos about my hobbies, which are about cars, traveling and gadgets. I aim that on 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 platform for inspiration and advocacy.