**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 better. 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 a blink of an eye when my mom was suddenly absent in my life. 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 a mother who was always there for me is suddenly gone. Ever since my mom was absent, I started to rebel and throw temper tantrums with the main goal of possibly attracting my parents’ attention. Moreover, the house would look like “kapal pecah” (Indonesian for shipwreck) all the time. The mess, and the cold, unhappy aura of a house, they’re chipping away at my family.

It was 2 years later when I found out the truth on why she was absent during that time period; my mom was diagnosed with cervical cancer. 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, I saw how this situation has 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.

So, 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 would ask my nanny to teach me how to cook a simple breakfast and how to sweep and sweep the floor. I messed up a lot. I would make black fried eggs, collect dust on one corner, make my siblings uncomfortable, etc. The house gradually seemed brighter as I improved doing house chores. With the addition of improved grades of the kids in the house (including me), we became more cheerful, which makes mom and dad happy.

Right now 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. I became much more mature mentally and became the mother figure of the house. From being a self centered and spoiled child, I became a more responsible, independent, and caring 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.

Dear David:

What an emotional experience it must have been for you to go through a parent’s absence in sickness. It’s heart-warming to see how such an event can transform your life for the better.

Since this is such an emotional story, it would be great to explore more emotional depth in telling your story. Explore more ways to structure your sentences, literary devices, and maybe add a little bit of dialogue. As you are retelling unfolding of the events, try to put yourself in the shoes of the reader. What do you want to convey in each of the paragraphs and sentences? What do you want the reader to see, hear, feel, think? What do you want them to understand or grasp from your situation?

The structure of the essay is clear, and it’s helpful for the reader to have a well-structured essay. It would be good to pay attention to sentence structures, the use of tenses, and grammar. Go back over your outline, take a break, and revisit your essay a few times to get a fresh perspective.

Overall, this is a well-structured essay that tells a great story of growth. All the best!

Thalia

ALL-in Essay Editor