**Babson College**

1. **Discuss an accomplishment, event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others. (650 words)**

**First Draft**

During my 16 years of existence, I can proudly recognize myself as a genius, not because I’m a literal academic genius who can solve university level math equations at the age of 15, it’s because I see myself as someone who is always confident to face problems through thick and thin. In life, we will always encounter problems in everything we do as nobody is perfect. Problems can appear in school, work, or even things you do just for fun.

Even though I’ve been boasting myself as someone who is a “genius”, I’m not gonna lie that I have a trait as

someone who pretty much doesn’t pay proper attention to instructions given to me and end up creating more problems than I should have.

Before I considered myself as the “genius” I am now, I’ve gone through plenty of challenges throughout my life journey. Before I acquired the ability to come up with a solution to a problem in a matter of minutes, I always felt pressured when facing an imminent problem, I felt that the pressure was so immense that if I fail, it feels like the end of the world. This feeling occurs most often while I’m studying, attending an IB school has no room for mistakes since if we score badly on one graded assignment, it could drag our grades to the bottom where it will be very difficult to push it up again. I’ve always felt pressured when completing assignments, not to mention deadlines that I forgot to remember. After a year and a half, I have always been confident when fixing my mistakes or forgetting deadlines.

Even though I’m still a student who considers himself as someone who is confident, I’m gonna be honest that I’ve also used some unorthodox ways to overcome problems. A couple months ago when the pandemic started to loosen up, my school implemented a policy where we had to show a covid test the first day of every week. One time, I was running late to school and at the same time I also forgot to bring a covid test. Even though the school had their own testing kits in case any of us forgot. I decided to just plow through the inspection checkpoint hoping that they wouldn’t notice me: It worked. I’ve had covid before so I was certain that I wasn’t infected.

I know what I did wasn’t really nice but the point is I’ve learned. Not only I learned to always remember next time, I learned that there's a difference between a challenge and a problem. A challenge will not become a problem unless it starts giving out consequences. Till then, always remember to take a deep breath, relax, be patient, and think. No matter how hard a challenge is, there will always be a way to solve it, either now or later.

Overall, you’ve portrayed yourself as someone who is confident and persistent, and all of these are indeed traits that universities desire from a student :)

However, the essay prompt is to write in detail a particular event or realization behind your personal growth, so it would make it much more appealing to tell a real story about your struggle/challenges that have shaped the smart student you are now today. The struggle should be the climax of your story, while the resolution of the essay would be your understanding of yourself.

Best,

Melinda

All-in Eduspace Editor