**Share an essay on any topic of your choice. It can be one you've already written, one that responds to a different prompt, or one of your own design.**

As a lover of technology, I have always dreamt of a fantasy-like, technological utopia where everyone would be driving flying cars, communicating through holograms, and I would contribute to that large image as an innovator that impacted a lot of people. These dreams would be crushed the moment I wake up from my sleep and realize that I need to go to school.

Needless to say, I had a great time in my land of imagination. I would doze off closing my eyes while resting my head on my hand at the dinner table. My younger sister would often interrupt me as I daydream. She angrily told me to put my hands down and eat properly, I yelled back at her telling her to mind her own business. As a result, I get into many arguments with my parents for having bad behavior and being rude towards my sister. It was annoying how I got scolded while she didn’t, even though it was her fault in the beginning.

During my free time, I would listen to a song called “No Friends” by Cadmium. A song I could only describe best represents the feeling I get everytime I think about social interaction. With my anxiety of talking to others, my dream seemed so far away. But perhaps I enjoyed the time that I had to myself. No parties, no hangouts, every time was me-time, and that is something I would replace with nothing in this world. Right?

“People should come to me if they really want to be my friend. I can do this myself anyway. What’s the point?” I thought as I entered the bathroom.

As I stood below the warm shower, random thoughts poured into my head. This led me to start remembering words that my mother and father told me time and time again.

“If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.” my father said.

“You want to change the world but you can’t change yourself. That’s called hypocrisy.” my mother said.

“What if the problem was me all along. What if I had been so caught up in changing others and the world, that I didn't realize the change that I needed to make right in front of me.”

I looked down at the soap foam gathered near the drain on the floor. As songs from my playlist played in the background, the song “No Friends” played again. Thoughts of my past actions and decisions start flowing in my mind. Loneliness. It is something faced by many at my age, and most choose to stay silent until the end of their highschool lives, but is that what I really want? The song talks about living without a single friend in the world, but I want to have friends. I want to care. I want my dreams to come true but I have to first live like the person I envisioned in that dream.

After this realization, I began to stop feeling bad for myself and instead try to understand those around me. How they feel. How they want to be treated. Perhaps the greatest change I’ve made is in how I treat my sister. Back then I would always get mad at her, but now I have learnt to tolerate her behavior and admit my mistakes. This led her to slowly open up to me instead of pushing me away.

Even though I did not invent any new technology or become the smartest person in the world, classmates started approaching me. The number of times I listened to “No Friends” decreased and I started listening to more songs by The Score like “Stronger”. Never before did I expect to enjoy semi rock music like this but here I am now listening to these songs like a daily morning ritual.

It was a few months after this change that me and my friend started a programming club. Even though there were only 5 people in the club, I made sure to give each and everyone of them the same amount of attention. Some of them even showcased their projects in class and others told the teacher how funny and exciting our classes were. These 5 people are the first of many in the future that will be part of my dream for a technological utopia that makes sure no one in this world is left alone.

Hello!

You have a good foundation for a potentially great essay here – good job! I like that you include some reflection, which really shows self-awareness and a desire to grow.

However, the main issue with this essay is that you have not defined the problem. For the reader, this means that we’re left guessing about what you’re struggling with. You need to make this part clear before we can see how the rest fits in.

You can make your essay more memorable for the admissions officers by highlighting your personal achievements like starting a programming club. I would also think about whether there’s another personal achievement that can be tied to your main story of growing to be less apathetic, learning to become a person who cares, and wanting to become a good influence to those around you.

Other than that, the structure of your essay can also be improved for better clarity and ease of understanding. I suggest going with the following structure, but feel free to be creative with it (i.e. you can forgo the standard structure for one paragraph, as long as this is done for a specific purpose or effect):

* Introduction → Hook readers with a little anecdote
* Body Paragraph 1 → Define and expand on the problem. This is what’s still unclear at the moment.
* Body Paragraph 2 → Transition to reflection. How and why did you start thinking about this problem? Was there a particular incident that made you realise you needed to change?
* Body Paragraph 3 → Realization and turning point (this can be combined with the previous paragraph if you need more paragraphs to talk about the next part)
* Body Paragraph 4 → What did you do with your realization? You can speak about personal and academic achievements here that demonstrate how you’ve grown
* Conclusion → Summarize what you learned and how you plan to continue growing in the future

All the best!

Adela J.

ALL-in Essay Editor