**Reflect on something that someone has done for you that has made you happy or thankful in a surprising way. How has this gratitude affected or motivated you?**

### Draft 1 version 1

It all started the third day into sophomore year, I didn’t have my usual “new kid” incoming because of covid, and as a new student who moved from a completely different school into this international private school it was all new to me. I had always been that kid who was never allowed to hangout and all I ever did was either train, study or do some student council or charity work, that was my entire life. Before moving I did my research, I went online and found out all the popular girls, their likes and dislikes and I knew I had to do whatever it took to be their friend. On the third day, one of the girls approached me, her name was Kat, she had been one of the popular girls I had researched endlessly over the summer, and she was the best friend of the most popular girl at school. When she approached me, I was initially in disbelief because for the first few days I was a nobody, hanging out with the same friend I knew. We got to talking and by the end of that day we had formed a little friend group. At the end of the week, to no one’s surprise one of the girls had stabbed me in the back. I didn’t know how to react or what to do especially because I was new and I felt like the underdog. Kat however stepped in and told her off, she then asked me whether I wanted to come and hang out with her and some seniors that weekend. After that weekend, my life went into its very own little spiral, I got invited to fancy restaurants , hung out with seniors, and went out to more parties than I knew to exist, all at the age of 14. The once precious untouched little girl transformed through one conversation. I know, it definitely wasn’t one of my proudest moments but per Galileo’s Pendulum theory, everything came back to equilibrium soon enough and that one interaction I had with a red haired girl that morning changed my entire life. During the next 2 years of trying to get my life back into equilibrium, I experienced a rollercoaster of a life. Those next 2 years I had embodied the mind of Anna Delvey, was I a thief? No. Was I a con artist? Maybe? You could look at it that way. Much like Anna Delvey, I had come from an average middle-class family and I soon put on a facade. When I first moved to my new school, I kind of knew where I was going, the second most expensive school in all of Indonesia. From the 285 million people in Indonesia, I was surrounded by the richest 0.001%. My dad had given me $40 as my monthly allowance, and I never planned on asking for more when they had already sold a house and had given up so much to get me into the “best school money could buy”, money we clearly didn’t have. For the next 2 years I hung out with people who threw away thousands of dollars a night and with my $40 a month what could I do? I was hanging out with the kids who owned islands, parts of a country, and everything else you could lay your eyes on in Indonesia. After that first hangout with the seniors, I knew exactly what I needed to do and exactly what I needed to be. For the next 2 years, I threw around money I didn’t have, and spent it faster than anyone could see. I learned what to say, what not to say, and exactly how to act to make people believe I was that girl. That day, I had decided that that was who I wanted to be and if I couldn’t actually be that, than at least I could make everyone believe I was her. I wanted to be one of those girls with their maxed out credit cards and their million dollar trust funds. Even though those 2 years for me were absolute hell, I learned how capable I was and the capacity of who I could be when I wanted something bad enough. I learned that if you feed people and yourself enough lies that soon everyone will believe it, and it was only a matter of time until I had everyone around me believe I was her. To this day, only 2 people have known the truth to who I really am.

### Draft 1 version 2

As I entered my sophomore year at an international private school, I felt like an outsider. Unlike previous years, I didn't have any familiar faces due to the pandemic, and as a new student from a completely different school, everything felt new and overwhelming. Being the type of kid who wasn't allowed to hang out with friends, I spent most of my time studying or doing student council and charity work. Before starting at the school, I did extensive research on the popular girls, trying to find a way to fit in with them. On the third day of school, one of the girls I had researched, Kat, approached me, and we struck up a conversation. To my surprise, we became fast friends and formed a little friend group by the end of the day. However, my joy was short-lived when one of the girls stabbed me in the back at the end of the week. As a new student, I felt like the underdog, I didn't know how to react. Thankfully, Kat stood up for me and asked me to hang out with her and some seniors over the weekend.

That weekend changed my life forever. I was suddenly invited to all these fancy restaurants, hung out with seniors, and went to parties, all at the age of 14. Although it wasn't my proudest moment, that one interaction with Kat had completely transformed my life and according to Galileo's Pendulum theory, everything came back to equilibrium soon enough, but for the next two years, I experienced a rollercoaster of a life. My dad had given me $40 as my monthly allowance, and I never planned on asking for more when they had already sold a house and had given up so much to get me into the “best school money could buy”, money we clearly didn’t have.

Over the next two years, I found myself surrounded by the richest 0.001% of Indonesia. I hung out with people who threw away thousands of dollars a night and with my $40 a month, what could I do? I was hanging out with the kids who owned islands, parts of countries, and anything else you could lay your eyes on in Indonesia. After that first hangout with the seniors, I knew exactly what I needed to do and exactly what I needed to be. For the next 2 years, I embodied the life of Anna Delvey, and while I wasn’t a thief, the facade I put up and wouldn’t let go of made me feel like I was a con artist. I threw around money I didn’t have, and spent it faster than anyone could see. I learned what to say, what not to say, and exactly how to act to make people believe I was that girl. I learned early on that if you feed people and yourself enough false truths, people will eventually believe them and in my case, it didn't take long for everyone around me to believe the facade I had put on. That day, I had decided that that was who I wanted to be and if I couldn’t actually be that, then at least I could make everyone believe I was her, one of those girls with their maxed out credit cards and their million dollar trust funds, even if it was only a facade.

Reflecting back on those two chaotic years, I realised how they served as a crucible for my self-discovery. Despite the difficulties I faced, I discovered my true capabilities and the extent of my potential when I had a clear desire in mind. While I may have taken the wrong path to fit in, it was a pivotal moment in my life that led me to discover my true potential. The one moment I had with Kat that day transformed my life in ways I never deemed possible. It was the catalyst that opened doors to a new life and new opportunities that I never knew existed.

Hello!

Your Anna Delvey story is very intriguing! I like how you described in detail why moving to this school is such a big deal as well as the things you did to fit in. Details help the reader understand better what you went through and how you grew through it. So, good job!

There are a few things you can do to improve your essay and make it clearer and stronger.

First, your essay lacked clarity on the impact of Kat’s actions on you. The second half of your essay should focus on how Kat’s actions helped you discover yourself and motivated you. You wrote about this briefly in your last paragraph, so it’s a good start. Explain your self-discovery process in detail. You can tie this into how the strength or quality you discovered about yourself can benefit your undergraduate career too.

Secondly, the introduction paragraph is a good start, especially the first few sentences that give context to your essay. You can combine your second paragraph to these first few sentences as the second paragraph could serve as a very good hook. Letting your readers know that there big stakes and sacrifices to go to a new school keeps them intrigued to read more and find out what happens next.

Last, don’t forget to finish your essay with a conclusion paragraph. The concluding paragraph should summarise your problem and highlight what you learned while briefly mentioning how these can contribute to your undergraduate experience. It should be very clear to the reader upon finishing the essay how you grew throughout the experience.

Best of luck!

Adela & Chiara

ALL-in Essay Editors