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

Have you ever woken up and unexpectedly seen more than a million people view your post?

I grew up in an environment where my friends doubted me because it took me a while to catch up with trends or new gadgets. I initially accepted that no one would ever notice me, let alone be popular. My self-doubt led me to become quiet and reserved. I preferred keeping my opinions to myself since my friends didn't take my voice seriously. It made me feel that my views were unnecessary and that no one would bother listening to what I had to say.

However, I decided to use TikTok to post a critique a few months ago because there's an issue with my mom's car that deserves some attention. I voiced my concern about Indonesian-assembled Hondas, pointing out the flaws of the built quality, such as unsecured armrests and falling door trims, things the competitor (thankfully) doesn't have. The assembler did not appropriately secure the trims attached to the doors. Considering how much my mom paid for this car, I was disappointed. My goal with the video was to let people know about Honda's awful quality control, yet it did more than that.

Never have I seen that many views 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 or react. I looked at the comments and was amazed by the number of people who related to my critique. The feeling of getting more recognition from other people I never interacted with is exciting. Still, I'm also worried that there might be a negative consequence, such as hateful comments or the company I'm critiquing sending a subpoena.

It didn't take long until I got a message from a Honda representative. "Oh lord, it's happening," I said. The world stopped at that moment, and my face went pale. With my heart thumping loudly, I read the message.

It turns out that the factory's representative in which their factory produced my mom's car wanted to have a look at the vehicle and inspect what was wrong with it. I was 16 then and had never talked to a corporate official before. They found that weak adhesive was the reason for the falling trims and later fixed it free of charge. The people from Honda were accepting, and even though I spoke badly about their cars, they were open to discussions and feedback to improve themselves. They listened to what I said, which contrasts my initial mindset, making me realize that one's voice matters, regardless of age and status, and that people have to voice them responsibly and for a good cause.

Since then, I have also started publishing different content types in addition to critiquing. I create other content, such as reviewing air fresheners or commenting on newly launched cars. I'm very passionate about examining new cars' features and comparing different vehicles on the market, which helps people make better decisions. My follower count grew to 4000 in just two days, and my likes have reached 240,000+. My TikTok account also aims to inform and educate people about specific car updates and products, which indirectly helps car brands by providing information about the demographics of Indonesian motorists.

I learned the power of words and how they can help and heal not only others but ourselves too, and this is what I have aspired to do with my TikTok or other social media platforms since then. This journey taught me to always be open to others and ourselves, and it helped me ease things when accepting new challenges and communicating with others. I now feel confident in expressing myself, which has made things easier for me so far.

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 place for people to express themselves. Though it is not an easy job, the enthusiasm from viewers is my driving force to keep creating content and encourage others to express themselves too.