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Ms. Harris

Humanities Period 5

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497 words

UC Prompt: Describe the world you come from-for example, your family, community or school-and tell us how your world has shaped your dreams and aspirations.

Desired Word Count: around 500 words

The world I come from may not exist.

I sank into my bed as tears streamed down my cheeks. Gripping *1984* tightly against me, I brooded over the problem again. When I had come upon the concept of solipsism in the book, I had asked my mom the meaning. Her explanation caused my world to come crashing down around my ears, with no way to refute it. "But I see the world; I see you! It feels real.  I know it exists. It has to."

I heard the futility of my logic, and was frustrated beyond belief. The idea that I can only prove the existence of myself is hard for me. Even having the conversation with another person is like a living paradox. However, I considered this over the next few weeks. I couldn’t find any way around it. I even brought it up to my friends, who were just as disconcerted as I was.

No one that I talked to could relieve my distress over this issue, and it consumed my thoughts until I had a realization. While this possibility could easily be true, there would be no way for me to know. Now, this is good information for me to have in case anything ever does happen to prove this theory right, but it doesn’t have to change the way I act. Maybe if the world feels real to me for my entire existence, it is real. Regardless of whether the world is completely manufactured by my senses and all that exists in the universe is my mind floating in space, the experiences that I perceive, and the people that I interact with feel real and important to me. Until I find out otherwise, I am going to proceed as if my assumptions were correct.

In my world, such a philosophical crisis of identity and being is as consuming and pertinent as any other crisis. This has led me to some stressful moments in school, where learning a concept as mind blowing as this, leads to an intense emotional response, and desire to understand fully. However, in the end I am happy that my world has shaped me to be this way, because it creates the most enthralling moments and conversations. Such as having an argument with your class about what a chair is, that continues after the class ends. Or learning about the Singularity and wanting to understand all aspects, and be prepared. Learning about concepts such as these makes my world exciting.

I come from a world where learning is not only fun, but also central to life and thoughts. Where my mom will discuss philosophy with me late into the night, or my dad will respond to my questions about business practices. We get excited about the workings of the world and revel in the feeling of unanswered questions and problems to solve.

The world I come from may not exist, but I can still participate in it and enjoy the experience.