Tell us about who you are. How would your family, friends, and/or members of your community describe you? If possible, please include something about yourself that you are most proud of and why.

Danet is Danet. Probably the words I hear the most when getting described. In middle school I held the record for wearing the same outfit eight Fridays in a row, while others were showing off their trendy clothes. I was getting hooked on stand-up comedy, while everyone was discussing their favorite anime. Being in my own lane has always been my identity; I take pride in being different and expressing myself the way I want to, no matter of people’s opinions.

Having said that, I have an impression of being funny. I find remedy in comedy as a mechanism to deal with my problems. During class, hangouts, or group projects, I have a knack of cracking jokes to lighten up the mood. There was a time when I came to a hangout feeling sad, not cracking a single joke, and everyone just went silent. That’s when I knew my role as a friend was being the clown, which I am more than happy to play.

However, there is another side of me as a friend. I take joy from others’ well-being. Many of my friends say I have a sixth sense on detecting when someone is feeling down. I remembered the one time we were in a group call, then I noticed my friend Aidan not talking at all, which isn’t like him. I quickly messaged him, and we ended up calling each other until dawn. Instead of being tired, I got a feeling of joy, being able and trusted to help him in my own way.

Overall, I just enjoy being myself and caring for my friends. What others think of me stay as their opinions, so I let myself write my own story.

Hi Danendra,

Your points in your essay are good but I would rather you focus more on you as a caring human being and how your sense of humor helps with that. I particularly liked your anecdote about you helping Aidan and this really brings out your qualities. Thus, I would reduce the first paragraph about you being ‘different’ and focus more on showing different situations where you can express the above qualities.

Hope this helps and ask your mentor if you have any questions!