**At Brown, you will learn as much from your peers outside the classroom as in academic spaces. *How will you contribute to the Brown community*? (250 words)**

Eyebrow dancing. Extreme pen spinning. One finger push-ups.

Menial in sight to many, these are unique talents I find remarkably entertaining. Yet upon contemplating as to how I contribute to the pack, I think of tongue twisters. On a deeper level, I usually initiate an action through the simplest of observations. To open my mind, I must first open my ears.

Development starts with listening.

I listen to noise, I listen to silence, I listen to all spectrums of thought. From my best friend’s rants on selective empathy to a teacher’s criticism, I try to embrace our hues and breadths of notions, though sometimes struggling to wrap up the lengths of our discussion to a conclusion. When I listened to children without education, I helped design a holistic education program for a rural area in Indonesia. When I listened to poverty-stricken villagers experiencing water pollution, I raised funds for a new water pump that would improve sanitation.

I also listen to my curious mind. That’s where my best inquiries arise from.

At Brown, I will listen to other people, starting up conversations with my advisees, DUG fellows and roommates. I will contribute by immersing myself, at the East Asia Colloquium, by painting murals on hospital walls with Art for Service in the Catalyst Journal. Or even by starting my own club.

Although glistened by research that shows how listening primarily helps the listener, I think we can help lift their litters away.

Yes, I’ll bring in some tongue twisters.

*Hi Kireyna!*

*Overall a nice, lightweight piece intertwined with some deep content inside. Love it!*

*As the tongue twister expert, I trust you can create a way punchier line on the last part of the essay I have marked above. Keep up the solid work!*

*- Matthew*