*Prompt: The lessons we take from obstacles we encounter can be fundamental to later success. Recount a time when you faced a challenge, setback, or failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience?*

As I turned on the ignition key, I heard stutters from the front accompanied by visuals of black smoke from the muffler of this 90s Toyota Kijang. I hurriedly hopped out, opened the hood, and was immediately presented with an overwhelming silhouette of the engine as it’s now covered with this ominous, viscous black smoke. I waited ~15 minutes. Once the black vapor slowly dissipated, a clearer view presented itself with seemingly different colored cables protruding out of the engine. Again… Seemingly!! My eyes cannot distinguish these colors as I was reminded of my protanomaly. Mixed feelings ensued: excited to fix the Toyota yet disheartened by my limitation that hinders me from investigating this object.

For years, people around me (distant family, family friends, etc.) had enforced a limitation upon me based on one flaw. Somehow, there has been this unknown stigma, “someone who’s colorblind CANNOT become an engineer.” It took a toll on me as it slowly pulled me away from my basic instinct. I was frustrated and wanted to disconnect from the world. It was tough, but this family heirloom turned 14th birthday gift has grounded me and become a force that fuels the engineering fire inside me.

As I studied this vintage’s engine, I saw the enthusiasm in my dad’s eyes. While his enthusiasm motivated me, it also served a strong pressure magnifying my fear of losing those looks. So, I disassembled all the cables from the engine in an attempt to fix it. Disassembling meant I had to know how to re-assemble them. Thus, my frustration rose when I tried to identify their colors. I couldn’t stick to my current situation: I tried enlisting my sister’s help to stay beside me as my color translator.

It worked, but it wasn’t a good solution. She couldn’t stay for the entirety of my attempt - which would take hours. I needed a better solution.

Inspired by my sister's obsession with *Sarasa* colored pens, I noticed that each pen has its own label indicating its respective colors. I borrowed her pen collections, spread them out on my portable workshop table, and began comparing the colors of the cables and pens side by side. It worked! It was a more sustainable solution. However, this created another problem, carrying hundreds of pens everywhere I go is inconvenient.

So, I shifted my brain into the fifth gear to search for a better and more practical solution.

Remembering my recent science class’s litmus paper experiment, I thought of an idea to create my own “color litmus test” device based on my previous Sarasa pen solution. It started out with a 7-by-4 cm sheet of standard white paper with varying shades of diverse colors and their respective labels as my first prototype. Next, I upgraded it using a *Rite in the Rain* waterproof paper and laminated them to make it more durable. It is now compact, portable, and sturdy.

A few days later… I called dad to the garage.

Me: “I won’t guess the color this time. This is green right?”

He had a surprised look accompanied by silence for a few seconds; it felt like forever. For each second that passed, I began to doubt my answer more. Then, a gentle smile appeared.

Dad: “You got it right on your own. I’m proud of you.”

The happiness in his voice was irreplaceable. I'm astounded at how I was able to create something so meaningful to me with just a pen and paper (and plastic). The greatest barrier in life is not the lack of skills. It’s how I let other people’s discouraging voices get to me. I learned to treat them as white noises and, eventually, learned to use them as fuel to drive my perseverance. Now, I’m grateful for what I have. Now, I will treat any challenges in life as temporary speed bumps acting as traction towards the finish line.

Hi! I see various improvements you’ve made, and I could definitely imagine the event more clearly this time. I think the attempts made to fix the car paints a good story for perseverance, which is the key statement in your conclusion.

One of the things I noticed is your preference to use difficult words, and while it’s certainly descriptive in the right places, it’s also making it difficult for the reader to understand where you’re going with it. For example, “an epiphany generated by the duality of comprehension between two individuals” vs. “an idea sparked by the discussion of two people” are both correct, but which one would you expect in a novel catered to public, and which one would you see in a philosophical textbook? Right now, you’re steering at the edge of the latter, so I’d say to relax some of your wording just so the vocabulary would hit the reader at the right times. Too many could also desensitize the reader to your language.

My biggest confusion is the obstacle, because I think the obstacle you meant to write was the color blindness. But in the conclusion, the obstacle instead is “how you let disparaging voices of others” affect you, even if it wasn’t mentioned in a specific event. I think this needs to be modified a bit. I understand there was an attempt to connect “colorblindness is unacceptable for engineers” and the story of assembling the car with the solution, but it didn’t feel like it was going hand in hand.

Instead of giving the statement, maybe explain in more detail how that was a big issue while you’re fixing the car. Right now, the issues written were more towards how some solutions weren’t viable. Instead steer towards: “connecting the wrong cables or asking people help during an engineering process is not possible, I knew this, all the people giving me disparaging remarks knew this. But this car is exactly why I can challenge myself, and I’ll use everything in my arsenal to prove them wrong”. Basically focus more on why being colorblind is a problem for your intended major, and people were against you instead of supporting you, then I could see more of a flow between the underlying issue and the conclusion.