**Please help with closing and cutting wordss**

**Every person has a creative side, and it can be expressed in many ways: problem solving, original and innovative thinking, and artistically, to name a few. Describe how you express your creative side.**

From an academic point of view, my creativity is equivalent to that of a rock. I cannot draw, mold clays, or even develop a well-written fictional story. I can, however, solve problems creatively.

I started to hone this skill when I was 12 years old.

“You have to earn it, Nelson. Don’t just beg for it”, said my mother, as we walked out of the store without the bright red helicopter that I wanted so badly. “How should I persuade her that I am able to earn that helicopter?” This was when a light bulb lit over my head.

Over the next four days, I brought my toy cars to school and offered them to my friends for four dollars each. Five cars later, I showed mom the money that I earned. She ended up buying the helicopter for me and let me keep my car money.

Although it was out of pity, I felt accomplished as I managed to persuade my mom. As I grew, I applied this problem-solving skill for more important negotiations.

Last year, my dad flew me to Malaysia to handle our apartment’s rental agreements. The tenant who was in the Airbnb business, decided to breach the contract as his business was slowing down. He wanted a 30% discount on the rent when the initial contract explicitly states a 10% increase per annum.

Despite his 30-year experience in the property market, I remained confident. I told him that I understood where he came from and got him to agree to a solution that would benefit the both of us. “Mr. Ong, a 30% discount would force us to take a loss on our investment. But, I’m open to share the rental market risk with you.” I came up with the solution: Instead of complying with 30% less rent, I convinced him to just decrease rent by 20% and an additional 25 ringgits for every night someone stayed in the apartment.

I might not score well in graded creativity, but when it comes to real life situations, I am able to think creatively to solve problems.