Our families and communities often define us and our individual worlds. Community might refer to your cultural group, extended family, religious group, neighborhood or school, sports team or club, co-workers, etc. Describe the world you come from and how you, as a product of it, might add to the diversity of the UW. (300 words)

I became interested in basketball since the sixth grade. Not long after, I joined a basketball club called “Sahabat” – an Indonesian word for friend – wanting to improve my skills. It was a club comprised of peers my age from different schools with a two-hours daily dose of drills and scrimmages five days a week. From a loner to a team player, from shy to sociable, from timid to confident: I owe this all to “Sahabat.”

Initially, I was just a self-conscious kid playing ONLY for self-improvement, so does everyone. As a result, “Sahabat” kept suffering losses. I asked myself, “Why do we keep losing?” Basketball is a team sport, improving one’s skill is important, but growing as a team is even more so. Thus, I put more efforts into interacting with my “Sahabat” peers: getting to know them personally through chit chats, making jokes both subtle and direct, sharing our day to day lives, and, eventually, going out for team dinners.

Those who were strangers to me started to feel like family. This is when I learned about their different backgrounds. It was gratifying to see how all of that don’t matter. Our chemistry have bridged our differences into one cohesive unit: a robust TEAM. Next thing we know, “Sahabat’s” wins have slowly but surely improved as our chemistry and teamwork got stronger. As a side product, I see myself as not a loner, but someone with lots of friends.

I owe my personal growth to “Sahabat.” It changed me from a recluse to a more sociable person, allowed me to develop empathy towards differences, and made me more confident! The current me has made an impact to my team, my school, and I’m confident that I can also contribute to UW and make an impact to your student body.

Hi Octavio,

I think this is great and could be used for this prompt.

I noticed that through “Sahabat”, you became as you mentioned: sociable, confident, team player – a people person.

I like the fact that you described the changes you experienced, such as from shy to sociable, timid to confident and was able to mention a few traits you have developed.

In my opinion, after sharing about “Sahabat”, and the changes you experienced, this prompt would be stronger if we focus and put emphasis on how you might add diversity to UW.

In the last paragraph, you mentioned how the current you has made an impact to the team, school and would be able to contribute to UW and make an impact to the student body – I think this needs to be elaborated.

A few questions that might help would be:

* How did you make an impact to the team and school? In what ways?
  + E.g. did you encourage team members when they are down, became active and participated in school clubs and events, welcoming the different students.
* How do you think, you’ll contribute to UW and make an impact to the student body?
  + Are you going to build awareness of the different cultures and background due to the empathy you have developed?
  + Are you going to embrace the timid and shy people you meet, and be an encouragement for them?
  + Are you going to promote the importance of socializing, to build connections?

I am aware of the fact that this will add on and exceed the word count. But I think you could add this first and we’ll see which parts we could cut.

All the best! ☺