*Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story (max. 650 words)*

As I clicked on the family group chat I monotonously checked every day, I gasped at the news written before me.

“WE’RE MOVING”

I froze in surprise and exhaled with unease as my eyes did the dolly zoom effect on my phone held in front of me. Looking back at that very moment, I realise that what I was feeling was not surprise, nor disbelief, nor sadness. It was worry. Though I was uncertain of what lay ahead of me, I was certain that the changes I was going to experience and the people I would meet would be instrumental in shaping who I would become.

Throughout my lifetime, I grew up in 4 countries and 7 houses. Consequently, you can say that “new” is my normal. From the relentless winters of Russia to the desolate deserts of Oman, I continually craved excitement and exploration, finding enthusiasm in meeting new people and learning more about their cultures. How those cultures have influenced my opinions/ the way I think. Will my next destination change my opinions? Give specific examples and make it personal and story-like. Then link back to how this makes me more \_\_\_\_\_

With change as my constant, I realised that the migration my family experienced has provided a foundation to my growth as an adolescent in a rapidly globalizing world. Change has allowed me to become exposed to different cultures, which I found fascination in, giving me a well-rounded perspective on the importance of diversity and cross-cultural understanding, and facilitating my aims in becoming a more open-minded individual.

As I reminisce about parts of my life that entail constant change, there are a few things that are unchanging: one of them being the science and research in energy sources that brought me to these places. As my father pursued his role in the hunt for oil, gas, and natural resources, my interest in engineering sparked, leading me to complete an internship at Petroleum Development Oman (PDO). During this internship, I learned about drilling practices and explored the roles that different disciplines have in the process of getting oil from ground to car tank: each role is crucial, much like how people of different backgrounds have unique views, but when combined together, can result in creativity to solve complex problems involved in urban society. PDO took pride in their diverse workforce, emphasizing the importance of diversity in progress and helping me realise the number of unique perspectives around me that I am eager to understand. No matter what destination I found myself in, I was able to appreciate the collaboration of people of different cultures and interests in building a more interconnected world.

I reflect on my childhood, populated with many characters, filled with many adventures, and influenced by many cultures. Change instilled in me a sense of curiosity, and as I learned to see the world from different perspectives, I developed an insatiable hunger to seek out more perspectives unknown to me. Most importantly, I’ve realized that with the willingness to adapt and the willingness to accept not knowing where I will be, change can be gratifying. Looking back at that moment, yes, I was uncertain of what lay ahead of me. But now, with whatever change lies ahead of me, I am certain that the experiences I will make and the people I will meet (and cultures exposed to) will grant me the gift of perspective and open-mindedness.

Another thing left unchanged is the company of my twin sister, who has accompanied me through my whole journey up to this very moment. Throughout our childhoods, we were effectively treated as two versions of the same person. Despite having essentially lived the exact same lives and experiencing the same changes, our opinions and interests differ considerably. So if twins had differing views, how different would the views of people of different backgrounds be? This has further shown me the importance of diversity in progress, emphasizing the number of unique perspectives around me that I am eager to understand.

Hi Rashika,

Your childhood must be very interesting as you moved around a lot and that you’re familiar to change and this essay strongly implies that you embrace change in a positive way and as a catalyst for you to learn more. Despite talking about change a lot in this essay, I believe that this essay can be so much more if you really focus on how change builds the person you are today and the person you’d anticipate to be in the future. Though you did mention about how change inspires you to learn, you did not give relevant examples of how change motivates you. Moreover, though you displayed great set of skills when you were describing your internship, the examples given were still quite unrelated to the main topic of embracing change.

Moreover, remember that AOs love stories more than anything and although this essay is close to a summary of your life, it’s not yet a story of your life. Take your readers through a journey where you talk about the ups and downs of change, and ultimately leaving them to a “begending” (beginning ending) where you look forward to change as you begin the next chapter of your life.

I already love the basis and theme of this essay, but it’s still like an incomplete puzzle where you still need to add pieces of your life (your story) into the essay to weave a clearer picture.

I’m looking forward to the development of this essay. Should you need any clarifications or any questions, please contact your mentor to get to me.

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