**Brown’s culture fosters a community in which students challenge the ideas of others and have their ideas challenged in return, promoting a deeper and clearer understanding of the complex issues confronting society. This active engagement in dialogue is as present outside the classroom as it is in academic spaces. Tell us about a time you were challenged by a perspective that differed from your own. How did you respond? (200-250 words)**

Science insinuates that any phenomenon is reducible into its constituents, their complete explanations eventually necessitating the fundamental forces of physics: rules that govern everything. According to science, the world is a sum of its parts.

As a firm believer of science, I paraded this concept to my peers. Unfortunately, they rarely indulged me. To them it was meaningless blibber-blabber: a universal mechanism they couldn’t be bothered with.

However, one person openly disagreed, insisting that the world is more than subatomic particles and esoteric forces. Night-after-night, new evidence born of personal research would reignite our debates, where rivaling arguments spanning every field of academia matched each other blow-for-blow. It was a learning experience I truly enjoyed; four years later, she remains amongst my closest friends.

Eventually, our debates ventured into philosophy. Particularly, the principle of identity—grains piled together becomes heaps despite “heap-ness” never being added—an interpretation of emergent properties unexplained by science: like consciousness, or the universe. In science where numbers reign supreme, one-plus-one always equals two. But in philosophy grains amount to heaps, neurons into consciousness, and atoms into universes.

I believe adopting this philosophy is the first step in tackling global issues such as climate-change. Calculations show that if someone eliminated their carbon-footprint, they wouldn’t save the world one second—we would need everyone to save the world. It’s in these desperate times that we must remember our collective identity: the world. Perhaps if we saw ourselves as more than a sum of our parts, we could make a difference.

Hi Dylan!

It was one of a kind debate and conversation you had with your friend! Reading your story made me imagine how fun it must have been to be able to debate healthily, which is not always the case.

This is certainly something you could include to answer this prompt.

I have added a few comments that I believe would help make the essay stronger.

Make sure to describe and be detailed of how you responded, as that is the main question of the prompt.

All the best! ☺