Prompt: What is important? Why?

The importance of discovering unexplored parts of myself, which opened up whenever I encouraged myself to dive into something new, came upon me during my high school journey. Evolving from a comfort-zoned child, I discovered an important feeling: the courage to dive into the unknown.

I remember the first day I rode the bus. Driven from an image of a girl being assaulted by a man, my traumas of riding the bus and having conversations with strangers warned me to stay away from the bus. But for some reason, I chose to ride it. At first, I was shook. Even more so when a stranger approached me, reeling back the traumatic view. To my surprise, he was very nice and we had a meaningful conversation about riding the bus and its stigmas. Slowly, my body and mind eased through the experience, as my initial traumas started brushing off. When I got off, I felt a sense of relief for conquering my life-long fear.

Now I sit here writing, reflecting on my achievements during high school, most of which were foreign terrain to the old me. How much of it came from the courage of exploring a new world baffled me. If I didn’t ride the bus, I wouldn’t be sitting here looking at the Business Plan trophy I won in my first competition, or the cover of my first book, or the button just one click away from playing my first song. There is no denying that the fear of change will always be there, but I have come to realize that my greatest feats and stories came from pushing through those fears.