**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 phenomena 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 science enthusiast, I paraded this notion 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 friendly debates, where rivaling arguments spanning all of academia matched each other blow-for-blow. It was a learning experience we truly enjoyed—neither of us ever got upset; four years later, she remains amongst my closest friends.

Eventually, our debates ventured into philosophy. Particularly, the concept of identity, an emergent property unexplained by science—just like consciousness, or the universe. It only follows that in science where numbers reign supreme, one-plus-one always equals two, but I learnt that science cannot paint reality alone; it must be unified with other wisdoms to illustrate the full picture.

I believe what I learnt could be applied 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 change our mindsets. Perhaps if everyone saw ourselves as more than a sum of our parts, we could make a difference.