**Our families and communities often define us and our individual worlds. The 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 University of Washington. Max 300 words.**

I have a total of 17 cousins from my mother’s side, 18 if you include me. We are a close-knit group, but being in a large family, we often have disputes. From simple arguments like who to sit with on the bus or who to hang out with to big ones that could harm our relationship.

During the pandemic, my cousin saw that my grandfather became very cheerless from being quarantined. Some of my cousins insisted that he resume his daily activities as he did pre-covid, while some others maintained that he waited out. Gradually, our discussion turned into an argument, and finally a screaming match. We stopped talking for a week.

Being the second eldest, I couldn’t bear to see such suspense any longer. Thus, I called a meeting with all my cousins and communicated that we must be solid and work as a team if we were to help our grandfather. Voicing opinions is great but listening to each other’s ideas is equally critical. I tried to highlight the positive aspects of each side’s arguments, and we agreed that both physical and mental health are important for our grandfather. Thus, we started to add onto one another’s ideas instead of shooting them down. Together, we decided to organize a virtual family competition in which we did at-home exercises with increasing difficulty.

This experience taught me that, in a large group, frictions are inevitable, but we must put our ego aside to achieve compromise and the greater good. At UW, I would continue to empathize with my peers and improve my communication skills, whether at the Huskies Badminton Club or the Asian Business Student Association. There will always be disagreements in a large group. But when we stick together, we can conquer any obstacle.