**At Boston College, we hope to draw on the Jesuit tradition of finding conversation partners to discuss issues and problems facing society. Who is your favorite conversation partner? What do you discuss with that person? (400 words)**

I say with extreme confidence that my older sister is—and will continue to be—my favorite conversation partner. She is my dearest friend and greatest nemesis. Our discussions usually take place when our minds are moments away from drifting to sleep, yet we push through the lulling exhaustion to talk to each other as we seldom get the opportunity to do so during the day.

With any given problem, she seems to have a contrasting opinion to my own, provoking a scintillating argument. For instance, she remains an avid supporter of undercooked rice while I largely preferred its softer (and far more superior), overcooked state. This made her the perfect partner with whom I could practice my speaking points the night before a debate competition, and I quickly found that no rival I would meet the following day could parallel her purposeful, clever, and relentless nature. At times when it felt like I was slipping during the confrontation, I would simply ask myself: “what would Mandy say?”, and promptly speak with a level of confidence that whatever I proceeded to say sounded indisputable. I owe my love for discussion to her.

Most notably, however, my sister also taught me to recognize conflicts that were typically brushed under the carpet in conservative households like our own. She was always partial to undervalued social issues, namely the decriminalization of sex workers across the globe. It would amaze me, seeing her speak so strongly for the tyrannized men and women being taken advantage of every day. She made it easy to care for the things she cared for, and I found myself wanting to investigate further. It prompted me to think: “who else’s story was worth discovering and fighting for?”, and ultimately led me to establish my own organization, Aglow Education. It campaigns for the less fortunate children of Indonesia who showed me a profound eagerness to learn. Had it not been for my sister, I would never have pursued a cause like this one.

My sister continues to reinvigorate my love for debate and drive for philanthropic efforts.

In Boston College, I hope to find similarly enthused opponents to argue with. Though I must warn you, I’ve had a lot of practice.