***UC essay prompt 2***

*Every person has a creative side, and it can be expressed in many ways: problem-solving, original and innovative thinking, and artistically, to name a few. Describe how you express your creative side. (350 words)*

“rrrrr... rrrr… rrr… clack…. Booff....” Smoke emerged from the 1999 Toyota’s muffler as its engine failed to start. I immediately opened the hood and saw the engine covered by hot black smoke while dad kept turning on the ignition. After 15 minutes, the smoke seemed to dissipate, but I still saw an uncontrasted view of grey engine and cables, which quickly reminded me of my protanomaly. When dad encouraged me to fix the car, I was both excited to fix it and  discouraged thinking about my eye’s limitation.

While disassembling the cables and organizing them on my workshop table, I accidentally tipped them over dissarraying the cables. Panicking, I enlisted my sister as my color translator, but she couldn’t stay for long. So, I needed a better solution.

Roaming around the house searching for solutions, I spotted my sister’s *Sarasa* pen collections with color labels on them. I then compared the pens and cables side by side. It worked! *Sarasa* enabled me to reassemble the cables to the fixed engine. This made me realize the importance of having a device to help with my color blindness. Continuously carrying dozens of pens with me is inconvenient, so I shifted my brain into the fifth gear to search for a more practical solution.

A recent litmus paper experiment inspired me to create my own “color litmus” device. It started out with a 7-by-4 cm sheet of white paper with shades of diverse colors and labels. I then upgraded it using laminated *Rite-in-the-Rain* waterproof paper, making it compact and sturdy.

Days later, using my new device, I pointed out a green cable to my dad, the color I struggle with the most. After seconds of silence, he gently smiled and said, “I’m proud of you.”

I'm astounded at how colored pens, paper, and plastic became the solution to my color blindness. Now, I realized that my greatest barrier is not the lack of skills, but how I allow my flaws define me, thinking they’re permanent. This car is my epiphany. Now, I’m grateful for what I have. I will treat any challenges in life as temporary speed bumps acting as traction towards the finish line.