**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)**

“Therefore, put yourself above others”

During my middle school graduation ceremony, the principal gave this moving speech about our new journey ahead. Although for the most part, it brought me to tears, the waterworks stopped when he said that line. It would’ve been a great ending to a great speech, if it didn’t directly oppose my long-standing belief.

My family raised me to, “always prioritize others first”. It could’ve been the Setiadi family motto, but here’s the catch: I’ve never really thought about our motto until my principal’s speech. My lifestyle is subconsciously based on this value as I believe giving is better than receiving, and there is nobility in sacrificing for others.

However, after a hefty thinking process with many questions asked, what my principal said was also true. In the end, I am the only one who will truly look out and care for myself. I am the one who knows my own well-being.

I was at a stand-off. It was the first time I was challenged by an equally sensible belief. But shouldn’t there be one right and wrong? I’ve thought that to understand one's perspective to grow our values, we need to let go of our previously held beliefs. But that moment, I found that questioning and challenging my view was growth in itself, even when I stuck to my values. I now appreciate what it means to sacrifice myself for others, after understanding that I could put myself first if I wanted to.