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Graduate Diversity Statement

Ever since I lost half of my middle finger on my right hand from a blender accident [WHEN I WAS HOW OLD], I became accustomed to trying hard to accomplish many daily tasks. I had difficulty learning how to use chopsticks, not only because it was a new skill, but also because my middle finger was too short to hold the chopsticks properly. I also had a hard time holding pencils in the right way. Every time I learned to do something new, my middle finger blistered.

Although some of my friends and family took pity on me, I tried to think of my injury as [A GAME]. After fingertip surgery, a transparent rubbery thing, which I assumed was a nail, grew from time to time through my fingertip. I usually made it soft by soaking it in hot water and cutting it out so that it would not grow too long. I liked touching it because it felt like a jelly. I found that the more I practiced using pencils and chopsticks, my fingertip became smoother and rounder, and I liked that it looked better. As I constantly tried to see the positive with the situation, I eventually came to enjoy [MY PHYSICAL DIFFERENCE]. [IN ADDITION, IN MY WHAT KIND OF CULTURE/FAMILY, MY INJURY WAS MADE MORE DIFFICULT/EASIER BECAUSE ... EXPLAIN.]

I had an opportunity to regain my finger when I was in elementary school. Although my severed finger was unrecoverable after the accident with the blender, my doctor told me at the time that I should come back when grown and he would see what he could do. Thus, I returned to see him [WHEN I WAS HOW OLD], and he asked me if I want to transplant one of my toes onto my middle finger. He said I would face no significant problems from a transplant although my sense of balance could be weakened. I refused.

I have never regretted not undergoing this transplant surgery. From a young age, my shortened finger has inspired me to try harder at everything I do, and think positively. Even though it took some time and I endured much pain, I learned how to play piano and guitar, write neatly, and be confident in myself no matter what. I like trying hard in new activities I cannot do well naturally, as my positivity allows me to enjoy whatever I do. I am thankful for having conquered this obstacle, seeing all of my fingers working together to constantly inspire me.

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