prompt 1:

My father was my mom and my dad. He raised me on his own, and tried his hardest to keep us together for as long as he could, but his work soon got in the way. There wasn’t much we could do about it. As his career progressed, he had no other option but to have me move in with my grandmother. However, whenever he wasn't busy working, we would spend time together to maintain our strong relationship.

At my grandmother’s house, I felt alone. Their customs were different from our customs at home, so I made adjustments. My dad loved Bruce Lee and always encouraged me to “be like water” in any situation that I find myself out of my element. I did my best, but I could never shake the feeling of not fitting in, even with my own family. My dad always encouraged me to have my own opinions and thoughts. My family refers to him as the devil because he refuses to conform to their way of life.

This taught me that it was okay to reject the status quo. He always supported my decisions, within reason, and that pushed me to become independent and actually value my opinion. I became stronger and gained my self-confidence. Since my father wasn’t around to have my back on typical household disagreements such as having to go to church every Sunday morning, or not being allowed to participate in games that were meant for “boys” to play, I challenged these controversial ideas and adapted to my new environment. It took a bit of practice to get used to my new living standards, but I got the hang of it. At young age, I accepted this unique lifestyle and I am grateful because I have learned to adapt and i know that will help me strive in my future.

This has helped me get to where I am today because I have applied these learned fundamentals towards my priorities such as homework, projects and various applications. I am also a valuable member of the Technology Academy at Foshay Learning Center. As a member of the Tech Academy,  I have helped plan events for my school such as our end of year social celebration event, as well as accepted an internship where I created a movement against domestic violence. I have a tight social circle, but I haven't let that hold me back from taking on leadership roles and stepping out of my comfort zone. I will continue to use this mentality to help me achieve my goals in life by completing tasks to overcome each and every obstacle I need to, in order to become who I strive to be in life. I share the independent personality that my father carries, therefore, watching him thrive in a business setting made me feel comfortable with the field. I enjoy how someone who works in the business field, gets opportunities to work independently, as well as with others.

I strive to be as great or if not better than my dad. Watching him be independent and confident while he conducts business on his own made him seem strong and powerful. Since I strive to be like my father, I want to pursue business to be strong and powerful as well. I have used my independent personality to practice many of the skills that I would need for the future, such as: communication skills, problem solving skills, and my leadership skills. I will use these skills that I have learned, through being independent, to achieve my goals, such as going to college, and starting my career in the business field.