**George Washington University encourages students to extend learning beyond the traditional classroom by taking advantage of hands-on learning through service, research, internships, and studying abroad. Describe an experience that transformed the way you view the world and how this perspective prepares you for GW.**

**Please respond to the following essay question in 250 words or fewer.**

I’ve followed certain principles I’ve imbibed overtime; my pillars of strength is what I like to call them. Changing the way I perceived myself to change the way I saw the world at large was the cornerstone of all my principles.

Being born a dark skinned girl in the Indian society made me insecure; I lacked self-confidence and suffered from low self-esteem. I lived with insecurity and trepidation for most of my formative years, hiding my face from the world for fear of being mocked and derided by peers.

It was not until the 8th grade when I walked the corridors of a new school; ignoring the jeers, I stepped into the classroom, “perhaps a new start” I thought. For others to accept me, I knew I had to accept myself first; it was then that I learned that my strength came from the weaknesses that I embraced. I made peace with myself and no longer saw the world as my enemy; I accepted its flaws and it accepted mine.

Taking up the Business Management program offered by GW allows me to not only learn the subject but also explore it and link it with the dynamic world around me. To enjoy studying among thousands of students and to be a part of, few of the hundreds of student organisations means that I have to get out of my shell.  The world is my playground, and I'm on the balanced seesaw, yet learning to experience the highs and lows.