

This summer there was a college essay writing workshop at my school, and my dad was insisting on my attendance. One thing I've never had trouble doing is writing, and so I told him; the last thing I need help with is a creative writing piece about my own life. That's what all my writing is, really, even the fiction (which is most of it). I've been writing the same book since fifth grade, a never ending novel about a dancer and a circle of traffickers, and sometimes a superorganism makes an appearance. I find that I draw a lot, if not all, of my inspiration from my real life and my real experiences, and so I began wondering what it would look like if I put it all down in a physical form. From an outside perspective, it might seem hard to understand how such a fictional story can relate so directly to my life, but it does. I printed out my writing and searched for the sections where I use direct references to my life within the story, and then organized them based on what type of experience they represent; fear, my experiences with nature, with friends, and the environment around me. This art piece is a visual representation of how my writing and my life experiences are intertwined. The spider web is symbolic of how I have spun them all together to create a whole.

BRAIN ON PAPER

Lila D.

Napa, California