What's your name?

D: My name is Dhruv

Where are you from?

D: I am from India, Hyderabad

Do you still live in India right now?

D: No I don't, I live here

What does food mean to you?

D: I mean I grew up loving food. I had a family that had two different cultural backgrounds, so I always grew up with a variety of food. Eating meat, and being completely vegetarian, it was a mixed bag honestly.

Are you a picky eater?

D: Somewhat yes, I have a lot of allergies so I kinda have to be.

Do you have any dietary restrictions or preferences?

D: I used to be completely vegetarian, but at this point I don't really have any, so I am open to eating anything

Do you cook?

D: Yes, I just started cooking more actually.

Do you cook differently from how your parents cooked at home?

D: For sure, they used to make rotis and Indian stuff. I usually cook meat and veggies and stuff like that.

Who taught you how to cook?

D: All Youtube

Do you eat food to celebrate, commemorate, or reflect for certain types of occasions that are not holidays?

D: I do celebrate at restaurants and stuff, but I don't cook at home.

What kind of foods do you like to eat to celebrate personal achievements?

D: Definitely like meat or fish, like sirloin or some sort of steak.

What is your fondest memory involving food?

D: My fondest memory is probably eating with friends. Back home there is something called biryani, and having that together in a huge meal is always fun.

Do certain types of food remind you of certain types of people?

D: For sure, I would say having ramen generally reminds me of my old roommate because he was Japanese but indian food reminds me of home.

When was the last time you had a meal that reminded you of home?

D: Probably a few weeks ago, I had some Indian food a few weeks ago.

How did it make you feel?

D: Nostalgic but also it wasn't great. Definitely makes me miss home but here the Indian food is kinda really bad. It wasn't all that great.

What is your family's eating habits? Do you eat together or alone?

D: We always ate our meals together at a common dining table. For every meal that we were present together, but usually always dinner.

Does food have a larger meaning or value in your culture?

D: I would say there's a lot of cultures that I am from. Definitely each state per say has its traditions and identity with food.

What do you think is the meaning of those differences?

D: I would say its very historic in the sense that if you're from a different state, like pure vegetarians or like pure meat eaters so it depends on your caste and the area you grew up in.

How do you think food influences culture?

D: I think it's definitely at the heart of culture. It's the main time that people come together and have an opportunity to socialize and bond together over something that everyone likes. I definitely think its important.

Have you ever been in situations where you stood out in regards to your food?

D: I don't think I have, no.

Do you often introduce new people to the food you grew up on?

D: I wouldn't say too often because the food is really spicy but I feel like if they are into spicy food then yes.

What do you hope to get out of that?

D: Just connections and having a good time together.

How often do you try new foods from other cultures?

D: Definitely been wanting to do that more, but not as frequently as I should be.

Do you think trying new foods influences your view of those cultures?

D: Definitely yeah. You just get to know more about like what that culture's food represents, the types of spices and meats and in general what their food is like.