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Grade 10

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What Drives You?

David Bowie, Bob Marley, Lady Gaga, Lana del Rey, Selena Quintanilla, Bradley Nowell, and Stevie Nicks are all artists who have made a huge impact in the way I value and view music. Every single one of these artists are special and have created amazing pieces of art. Music has always played a huge role in my life and has completely transformed the way I live my life and helps me to continue to push forward.

When I was a kid, I was constantly singing the melody of my favorite artists, I loved listening to the intricate rhythms and notes that each artist produced. Growing up in a Mexican American household I would listen to my mom's cumbia music, my brothers rap and reggae, and my sister's R&B and pop. Exposure to many different artists and genres is what intrigued me to learn more about music and different artists.

Once I began middle school, I decided to join choir. The director was extremely strict; it was very helpful. I was able to learn new skills that would help me grow as a musician. We worked on very traditional choral pieces which required a lot of effort and technique. I decided to stick with choir going into high school. It has been an incredible experience. The music we are working on is very elaborate harmonies that give me chills. Everyone works their hardest and we can apply the skills we have previously learned and enhance them.

Though I have learned a lot about music and the development of different pieces there is still so much I want to learn. Music has helped me learn about the origin of certain genres and pushes me to explore more about different peoples' backgrounds. Music is everywhere. You don't have to share a language to be able to understand the message of a song. Being able to connect with the music and learn more about it is such a beautiful thing. Music has opened my eyes to so many different opportunities to learn more about myself and the people around me.

Music has always been a way for me to express myself and ignore the negative things that surround me. I really enjoy making my own music. It is hard and takes a lot of time, but it's rewarding to listen back to something you are proud to have created. I've only ever shared my music with a few close friends and family members, but I want to be able to share with a larger audience.

When I think about the main reason I am still here and what gives me purpose, the answer is always music. Being able to express myself, tell a story, connect with people different from me, and embrace a melodic way of living keep me going because I know at the end of the day, I can always go home and make music.