

INTRODUCTION:

Creativity. Passion. Art. Self-improvement. Taking this class helped foster my inner curiosity in art. This then maneuvered towards deepening my creative abilities. Before taking this class my writing and reading skills were average but after taking this class I significantly improved my skills by consuming and getting exposed to different types of literature and art. It would never have crossed my mind to listen to audiobooks or podcasts. Yet, because of this, I have consumed many types of books, news, and more. With my writing skills, I honestly always dreaded writing essays or research papers or anything academically given to me in school. Although, through this class we get to write about things that actually interest me. For example, I get to talk about a song that I really like and that has inspired me or the time I got to write about how music changed my life. Through these experiences, I can safely conclude that this course helped serve as a bridge to loving to write. My literacy skills may not be perfect but as I continue to grow and learn I am a step closer to becoming a better reader and writer. Additionally, what I really admire about this class is the ability to spend my time being creative. If I wanted to experiment with art or different types of designs I would be able to do so in this class. Creative writing is a place for me to flourish in my passion and to go beyond my abilities. To add on to my admiration with this class is my admiration for the quick writes we write in class. Not only do these quick writes stimulate the creative side of my brain but the occasional goal setting topic helps set up my future endeavors. This is relevant because growing up I always believed that setting up goals for the future will help you be organized. But, due to the pandemic I have procrastinated and lost my motivation to plan my day or week out. This is pertinent to creative writing because this class has influenced me to grow and mature my habits in my personal life.

Moving outside of English class, I have grown as a person throughout high school. Starting from my freshman year, I was shy one year from when I first moved to The Great Neck South District. It may seem as though I could have adjusted properly to the environment and the social aspect that is carried out in Great Neck, Long Island, but I became shy and timid. The average “new girl” story may apply to this situation but I believe I became a strong person through my experiences in high school with the additional eighth grade experience. It was freshman year when I realized my skills in math. I actually wanted to do more math problems and solve the bonus questions. I liked to be driven past my abilities. This was the moment I decided to exponentially increase my math skills. This was also the moment that led me to choose my major that I wanted to do in college — business. Furthermore, in many of my classes — Spanish, English, History — I have always encountered the need to create presentations. In every class when there was a project presented, I always chose to do the creative option. This steered me to tap into my creative skills which led me to decide on doing business marketing for college. School has done so much to shape my personality and the road I walk on. School itself is an act of service given to me. Schools provide education, friendship, and the development of our personalities. What I loved was having extra help. In times of confusion and hardship, teachers were there to untangle the thoughts in my head and aided me with their guidance to achieve numerous things. Through many of the challenges, I can now move on to do bigger and better things from learning, growing, and maturing. To end it off, I hope to become a person people will come to for comfort and help while also the existence to keep people motivated and happy. I want to be perceived in a good light, one that is responsible, hard-working, and fun to be around. I just want to live life happily and not regret my decisions. So hopefully I am pushed to my

creative limits and continue to work on my skills practiced in period 9's creative writing class by Mr. Weinstein and Mrs. Fernandez.

REFLECTIONS:

Specific Project or Accomplishment

An accomplishment that I am really proud of this past year was successfully choreographing a routine for my Korean Fan Dance family for Asian Culture club at Great Neck South. It was only last year that I was a student learning to dance a culture that I was not a part of. But becoming surrounded by a family of loving and supportive friends, not only from Korean Fan but from the Asian culture club itself, helped me understand the importance this dance group was to me. Yes, Korean fan is an aesthetically pleasing form of art but I continued to pursue this this year to put my own creative spin. I liked the idea of being able to control the routine and having to be proud of an outcome that I created and taught successfully. This pride may be important but the bulk of my accomplishment was learning this culture. So to add on to my accomplishment, I am proud to have dipped my toes into the Korean culture. I have always loved watching the Korean dramas, Korean music (BTS, Blackpink, Seventeen, etc), or even Korean news and fashion. I immersed myself in this one culture that I have proudly developed knowledge on understanding the Korean language.

Another major accomplishment I made in my life along with the whole class of 2021 is being able to graduate and go to college. College and employment always seemed like a distant future yet it's only a few months away until I get to taste adulthood. I am glad to be part of a graduating class due to all the hard work and effort I put into getting my diploma. It is now that my life is starting to begin. I have the basics down from pre-k to senior year of high school and

now I need to gain experience and knowledge from what I am really passionate about which is to be fostered in college.

Personal Goal and Accomplishment- how I would and have changed the community in times of inequality or injustice.

I stood by the front of the bus and as it approached the next stop, my attention was snatched by this caucasian elderly woman who entered, yelling at the bus driver for a free pass. Then, she violently argued with another man for her “rightful” seat. Already my face tingled with distaste from her lack of respect for others. However, I convinced myself to stand down since the problem was resolved. Still, she instigated another fight. She fought a child for grazing her skin when the bus hit a few bumps. She began to target her race, point fingers at the mother for improper parenting, and amplified to screaming continuously. As a reflex, the mother, knowing her broken English was a disadvantage, instantly apologized. Consumed with fury, I reminded myself that I would not have let my grandparents get treated so unjustly for purely being Asian or any type of race in that manner. I may just be a seventeen-year-old who might look foolish for defying authority figures, but I couldn’t stand more of the howling while the surrounding people were discouraged by their lack of English-speaking skills. I would be poking the bear, but with respect, I boldly confronted her, and instantly she ceased her violent screams. I needed to use my education to my advantage to help the powerless people on the bus whose day just got smeared with ignorance. Despite my small spur of action, I protected my community’s dignity and identity. Thus, I believe if someone witnesses such issues in times of inequality, inequity, or injustice, one should use their utmost power to not resolve the issue but make an impact.

Standing neutral and having no opinion on an issue that clearly infringes on human rights or the commonality of humanity is problematic.

Personal Quirk that makes me who I am

The impactful strike of the foot towards the delicately formed cheekbones and the clean-cut jab at the ribs with bruises waiting to burst with blood excites the neurons in my brain. Not only did I have a quirk for the gruesome content from action films, but also from mysteries, crimes, and thrillers. I was especially invested in Criminal Minds, Supernatural, or just any movie with crime-fighting law enforcement. Many would react to my quirk as dangerous or weird because if I loved watching violence, I can reasonably be considered as a rising serial killer. For a while, I questioned my interest. I did not want to be *that* person who always knew too much about criminal justice or the one who always predicted the criminals' next course of action. It was bizarre for others to understand what was running through my brain yet, I had the satisfaction of guessing correctly. Additionally, being able to calculate accurately requires thinking outside of the box and being observant. I don't just sit back and watch but I become the detectives and solve the cases while also becoming the criminals. These films stimulate my brain unconsciously as I watch the story unfold. To make things quirkier, I reached a point where I could not watch movies or shows twice. This habit of mine goes to show that my personality craves novelty—learning, and experiencing new things. There are countless directors that choose to express emotion differently. So although there are only a few universal emotions, it can be portrayed in multiple ways which is what I desire to encounter. I want to be exposed to the unknown for future references when calculating. Just seeing the warning discretions before the movie starts gets my blood running for the curiosity of what's going to occur next.

Extracurricular Activity

As a child, instead of going to recess, I always gravitated towards helping teachers with work as it gave me the gratification that I aided to make a difference. So naturally, I pursued this hunger to help others. I joined Key Club throughout my high school career to partake in helping all types of charities like donating presents to churches or writing letters to the elderly. Similarly, I joined Global Angels to achieve the same goal. Being part of a community of compassionate and active members that have the desire to assist others besides themselves engages me. While working closely with organizations in high school, it would be beneficial to continue my attraction to give my time and energy to make other lives happy in my future endeavors. To expand my passion to help others outside of my hometown will strengthen my passions whilst becoming the best version of myself.

Book

The book, *The Giver* by Lois Lowry, changed the way I viewed my perception of society. Set in a dystopian society where life is organized to be as convenient and easy as possible, Jonas breaks the societal mold. Intrigued by the idea of a dystopian society, I wondered if our world would be better off with decisions already made for us eliminating pain or crime. However, the society Jonas lived in was lacking in pain, hunger, and even color. I realized that living in sameness with no freedom to choose one's path or make mistakes would be dull and the opposite of what living life should be about. The world is complex and shouldn't be simplified like Jonas's society. Believing that without having memories of pain or choosing destiny, would deprive humanity of true happiness. Happiness is grown from experiences, like mistakes that must be made in order for improvement.

A topic that engages my intellectual curiosity

Like the many teenage phases in music, my ears wandered towards Korean music. Introduced in the sixth grade through a peer, I entered the loophole of the Korean boy band, Bangtan Sonyeondan (BTS). I was especially intrigued by the production of their music videos and the meanings infused into their lyrics. This curiosity to learn all about them and the Korean music industry, evolved to listening to other groups, watching Korean dramas, and even buying merchandise from my favorite bands. Not only did this interest snatch my attention, but it unlocked the talent to understand Korean. Transferring from watching through the phone, I went out of my boundaries to join Korean Fan to learn more about the culture. My curiosity will guide me to pursue my passions unconditionally like my interest in Korean music.

Creativity piece

I have created a piece surrounding a certain theme: Social Media. It has always been a part of my life and like many people, they have similar experiences with me. I wanted to create a piece about how devastating and deceiving a post, tweet, or snap surrounded by technology can be. To disguise yourself as someone else or even someone you want to be reveals the many problems people face in reality. In this piece I included a blackout of words and a calligram intertwined into this “fake” Instagram post art.

Hybrid learning, the pandemic

The pandemic has caused stress and panic in society that also affected my own personal life. To be frankly honest, I was ecstatic when I heard that we weren't going back to school for a week which then turned into a month, then the whole school year. Thus overtime I have reached

the point where everything became so mundane and similar. It was as if the free time that I craved for was suddenly something I wish I didn't have as much of. I wanted to have more face to face social interaction instead of zooming friends or factoring them. Quarantine was difficult. Anxiety built up, motivation was lost, and a sliver of depressive symptoms appeared. However, on the bright side, I found ways to be more productive. I learned to cook more, practiced my makeup skills, and even mixed up an exercise routine with a diet plan. Everyone has different experiences during COVID but I for one have learned many new things about myself along the process. I recognized the people that were just my "proximity" friends, I understood more of my personality that needed to be surrounded by others, and I grasped the importance of health. I will forever be washing my hands when I get home, sanitizing my phone and anything I brought in from the outside, and changing clothes every time I arrive home. Another good habit that I got out of the pandemic was getting to call more relatives and friends that brought me a closer bond to them.

Where I see myself in 5, 10, or 20 years

In 5 years I see myself in graduate business school, going to earn my masters in business marketing or pursuing a minor in business law or psychology. I also hope to see myself landing a stable job in an internship company that I was in previously in my junior or senior year of undergraduate school. In 10 years I see myself engaged or married and living in a middle-class house. I see that I will have my own business that I am working on on the side or having to work on real estate. In 20 years I hope to be debt free and with 2 kids with a stable income from my flourishing company or from my current job but with a high position in the corporate ladder. I also see myself in all those years to be investing money in the stock market.