

Shey-Sea Nahulu

A211: Writing and the Humanities

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The Humanities All Around Me

Why is it that humanities are so important and involved in our lives? When I first learned about the word my first thought was human nature and nothing deeper than that. But as soon as I learned the meaning of it I began to think “well, I pretty much know all those things and I include them in my daily life.” The humanities are just the full range of human thoughts and creativity, along with language, religion, and philosophy. Which includes the spectrum of the arts like performing and visual arts. I came to an understanding that I have approached most of these branches that are involved with humanities.

All my life I have used language, literature, art, and music. Especially growing up in Hawaii, my family raised me in our Hawaiian culture. We dance Hula, sing in Hawaiian, and learn the Hawaiian language. Even the Charter school that I went to was predominantly based on Hawaiian culture even if students that attend it weren't native Hawaiian themselves. Art and design came into my life when I was inspired by my mom's youngest sister, I would secretly look at her sketchbooks and draw in them or at least try to copy what she drew.

Literature as a child was one of my favorite things to do, I would always read no matter where I was even if it was something important. Then as I grew older I also grew a love for writing, My first form of writing was in middle school. I had an elective that was all about poetry, we wrote poetry, we performed poetry, and we watched poetry. We even did slam poetry

which was also one of my favorites. The way you can hear and feel the emotions coming from the performer's voice always gave me goosebumps.

I remember when I did my first slam poetry and it was titled "I am Hawaiian." during that time I was being bullied by a relative of mine at school because I was too white so I can't possibly be related to him or even be Hawaiian. My favorite slam poet is Kealoha, his poem Zoom out was the very first slam poetry I've ever watched on youtube. My other favorite slam poet is Jamacia Osorio she performed the poem called Kaona which you can also find on youtube. Now if you can't tell the great aspects of the Humanities that I value are Language, literature, art, and music. These four aspects that I value mean so much to me because of how I was raised, In the Hawaiian culture music is used to not only express ourselves but to also tell a story of where and who we come from. Language is what helps keep us rooted to our ancestors to keep our language growing, Literature and art help me show the creativity that melts through my mind.

The only form of humanities that I don't like is religion, I personally won't give any reasons on why I don't like religion due to that I have trauma that comes with it. Though I do want to make myself clear that I respect everyone who is involved in whatever religion they put their faith in. The humanities have contributed to my worldview in that in my eyes it helps all of us connect to one another. What I really want to learn about the humanities is how other people view it and what they value most from it because not everyone shares the same ideology or even has the same values. However, a lot of people can understand each other through just one connection with the humanities.

All facets of human thought and creativity, such as language, religion, and philosophy, are included in the humanities. This includes a variety of artistic disciplines, including visual and

performing arts. I became aware that I had covered most of the humanities-related disciplines.

Even if some people still fear and despise it, the humanities are critical to both our society and human nature because they help us develop a deeper sense of self, a feeling of social justice, and a respect for difference. It even teaches us to appreciate goodness and beauty.