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Writing and the Humanities

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Peeling Back the Humanities

Delving into the topic of humanities has been a fresh sense of learning for me, similar to the process of Bambi learning how to walk for the first time. Before starting this college course, the understanding of term "humanities" was very vague and limited to me. For me to start understanding what the humanities were, having an open mind is the main part in my learning process. The topic involved more than what I originally thought it covered such as art, literature, culture, language, region, design, and much more. Whenever I come across a topic I'm unfamiliar with, I turn to the internet or text books for help to guide me. If all else fails, I go to my third source of knowledge, my husband.

Before, I was uneducated on what the humanities meant or why it was important. Initially, I didn't realize that I was already learning about a type of humanities in a previous art class I took in college. Learning about art and the history of art helped me understand the creative side of humanities. Being someone loves to create, my connection within the humanities has helped me learn to appreciate the experiences made from each individual. I truly enjoy making and editing videos and pictures. When I watch YouTube videos, I take notes to

understand the effort set behind the video. It's like watching the video from behind-the-scenes. I greatly appreciate how much work goes into editing a video and displaying it for the world to see. I'm drawn to the act of making art. Creating videos is a way of expressing a visual story for someone to see while creating art pieces allows people to view and perceive your artwork. This process is a beautiful way to add to the humanities. Although there is so much to learn about the humanities, I would like to be more educated in understanding why people make the art that they do and the creative process. What's their thought process? What have they been through to make this art piece? Going to visit museums and viewing gallery labels from art pieces can help with this personal goal. Understanding human creativity will help shape my own and provide inspiration.

On the other hand, being a creator has some unfavorable side effects too on the humanities. Negative feedback and criticism are the toughest obstacles to tackle, in my opinion. The anxiety that comes along with being judged and critiqued can slow down the creative process when making any type of art. It can seep into school and be nerve-wracking to have classes critique your work as well. It forces you to have tough skin in a sense. The humanities have shaped my worldview by showing me the good, the bad, and the ugly within the world. When posting anything online, I've faced some negative comments that were hurtful in the past. Some people on the internet have said discouraging things to some of the creative content that was made. In addition to that, in some cases where I've shared my art work, I received harsh criticism from other individuals and it's hard to take in the negative words when I've worked and dedicated myself to something. For example, someone commenting on a video explaining how it's not up to their liking or it's pointless to post this type of content. It's shown me that some people will take the time out of their day to say negative words to a complete stranger they have

yet to know and be unphased by it or think of the consequences. Even though I've faced some of these obstacles, I take from some of the feedback and aim to improve on the art I create. The humanities in this have made me stay true to my intentions and who I am.

To conclude, humanities continue to reveal layers of different information to me. Before this college course, I was not fully aware of what the term "humanities" meant and I felt a bit intimidated on trying to understand what it did mean. Taking this class has taught me what humanities are which include, art, culture, literature, and much more. Having an open mind when learning new things and turning to help from the internet, books, or even my husband, has helped me drastically in the education process. Learning about the humanities has created a greater understanding of the world around us.