**Every person has a creative side, and it can be expressed in many ways: problem solving, original and innovative thinking, and artistically, to name a few. Describe how you express your creative side. (350 words)**

The warm, resonant, metallic sound, ringing around the common area of the temple, you would be sure that it was the gamelan.

I still remember that every Sunday when I was a kid, my dad always took me to Gamelan practice. He would let me hit random notes on the gamelan, which likely annoyed other people. Though at that time I didn’t know what the instrument was, it developed my artistic side as I got used to the notes, and hymns which further my interest in Gamelan since.

I always mimicked the soothing yet powerful tone when I’m nervous; It made me feel powerful and in control.

I thought every Balinese youth experienced the same thing with their Gamelan, but I was wrong. Most of us lose touch with the instrument as they view it as something insignificant to their lives. They skipped practice because the thought of rehearsing with the complex instrument overwhelmed them, but I was the opposite. I think Gamelan should be preserved, pivotal to Balinese culture, it is our legacy in the arts. I was on a journey to utilize my creativity while expressing the best my culture has to offer.

With my dad’s friends in the local Hindu community, we formed a group with myself as the youngest player. We created new versions of iconic pieces, simplifying the notes to “Merah Putih” and “Hujan Emas”. Some might argue that simplifying original pieces removes the authenticity, but our performances made them more relaxed and fit into almost every occasion.

Our group also published past performances on social media and created after-school lessons for young people. That way, we can convince the youth that Gamelan is something worth it. We show the reasons why they should be proud of their cultural background and sustain the instrument's legacy. By contributing some of my artistic skills, I can express my creative side for the benefit of my community.

Hi I Nyoman,

Seriously great story and cause. You explained your pursuit in maintain your culture’s legacy and that is something that will touch people. I think you can amplify this essay by talking a little bit about diminishing culture due to globalization. We have access to so much “internet culture” and western media that we tend to deprioritize our own. This does not have to be long at all, just two sentences or so. You can do this at the beginning of the essay when you are explaining why you are so dedicated to the instrument when your peers are not, and tie it back again at the end.

C.G.