**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)**

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 possibly annoyed other people. Though at that time I didn’t know what the instrument was, it developed my creative side artistically. Since then, I started to further my interest in gamelan. What made me interested in Gamelan is its soothing yet powerful tone. I couldn’t recall how many times I would hymn the notes 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. The sad truth is that most Balinese youths lose touch with the instrument, as they view it as something insignificant to their lives. They would skip cheering practice because the thought of rehearsing Gamelan being difficult and complex overtook them. They miss out on their cultural legacy. whic led me on a journey to utilize my creativity, while expressing what my culture has the best to offer.

Together with my dad’s friends in the local Hindu community, we formed a new group, consisting of me, as the youngest player, and a bunch of my dad’s friends. We created new versions of existing pieces by simplifying the notes, such as “Merah Putih” and “Hujan Emas”. Some might argue that simplifying original pieces means that the piece is unoriginal and does not sound authentic. However, based on our past performances, the simplified version sounded more relaxed and fits into almost every occasion.

Not only that, our group also published past performances on social media and created after-school lessons for youngsters. That way, we could convince the youth that Gamelan is something worth spending time on and encourage them to preserve this Balinese cultural legacy. We show them the reasons why they should be proud of their cultural background, promoting diversity and reviving the instrument's legacy. By contributing some of my artistic skills to the community, I can express and utilize my creative side for the benefit of my community.

Hi Indra:

What amazing venture to preserve your culture through Gamelan!

I think overall your essay is almost good to go, save for the above comments. To keep in line with the word count, it’s better to use shorter sentences where possible and avoid redundancy. Don’t use too many prepositions and try to restructure your sentences to eliminate unnecessary details.

All the best!