**Prompt #2 - 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 C chord—a triad of C, E, and G—yet my middle finger reaches for D instead. The three keys were swiftly flicked one at a time, then in rhythmic unison. At times, even an octave higher.

I waited impatiently for the day of my first classical piano lesson. With my new possession of a compiled music sheet, my teacher rewarded me with a sticker or two each time I mastered a song. Before I knew it, the book had been covered by colorful characters and symbols.

Ironically, I later quit. I had initially assumed it was the teaching method that I simply lacked compatibility with. Thus, after two years, I signed up for lessons someplace else. Though, the same thing occurred.

Beyond my knowledge however, this was only the beginning of my piano journey.

Due to my previous dependence on a teacher’s guidance, I was clueless where to begin. I used to be distracted with whether I played the right notes for the fear of a pointed-out mistake. This hindered me from genuinely expressing my musical creativity.

As I sat down on the piano chair, I shuffled my playlist and searched for song notations. Instead of following it, I dissected the chords and made an improvisation. Watching the sound instantly transform into a whole different piece, I became hooked by this newfound routine.

By eliminating the possibility of mistakes, improvising taught me not to be scared of the unknown. It required a great deal of experimentation to assemble a missing piece to the puzzle. It is through having this complete liberty over the structure and composition, that I truly enjoyed being on the instrument.

Through my experience, unconventional paths are not necessarily disadvantageous. I may have partially skipped the “basics” of piano by leaving the course unfinished, and yet, it does not take away my competence. I learned my tendency to excel by exploring concepts independently and in whichever manner that motivates myself. I trusted my own intuition as a measure of my success.