**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 possibly annoyed other people. Though at that time I didn’t know what the instrument was, it developed my creative side artistically as I got used to the notes, and hymns which further my interest in Gamelan since then.

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 Balinese youths lose touch with the instrument, as they view it as something insignificant to their lives. They would skip practice because the thought of rehearsing gamelan being difficult and complex overtook them, but I am the opposite. I think Gamelan should be preserved as it is significant to the Balinese culture; it is our legacy in the arts. This 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 removes the authenticity. 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. We show the reasons why youngsters should be proud of their cultural background and revive the instrument's legacy. By contributing some of my artistic skills, I can express my creative side for the benefit of my community.