

## Module 2 Assignment Self-Analysis

A life-defining moment for me happened during my band experience in high school. Music had always been part of my life while growing up and had affected me in small ways, but it wasn't until high school band that I realized how much music impacted me. The moment I think back to most often happened during a class rehearsal for the state assessment. Everyone was tired, our sound was off, and our director stopped us mid-piece because we were flat and off beat. Instead of scolding us, he said something simple: "Play what you can; we can fix it later."

At first, it sounded like the usual lecture. But it was calmer and honest. I picked up my sticks again and felt at ease. I wasn't just keeping time or playing rhythms; I was part of something bigger. The music was not about perfection. It was about working on what we can improve on individually and putting everything we practiced together. For the first time, I understood that what I was passionate about was not simply being in the band. It was the discipline of making something feel alive with a group of different people.

Before that rehearsal, I had always felt embarrassed and ashamed when making a mistake or missing a note during rehearsal. As a percussionist, errors are a lot more obvious, and I didn't want to be the reason that dragged the class down a grade during assessment. That mindset made me cautious, and I often played with less confidence. After our director told us to just play, I realized that being so worried about errors was stopping me from improving. Playing with more confidence, even if it meant mistakes, actually made the group sound stronger and helped me improve as a musician and a percussionist.

This connects directly to something Sir Ken Robinson said in his talk "*Do Schools Kill Creativity?*" He explained that if people are not prepared to be wrong, they will never come up with anything original. What he meant applies perfectly to that moment in the band. If I only focused on being correct all the time, I would never learn new skills or grow as a player. Allowing myself to risk being wrong opened the door to playing with more energy and focus.

That lesson became important beyond music. In my IT coursework, I often face problems where there isn't one clear solution right away. Whether it's debugging code or designing a system, it is easy to get stuck worrying about making a mistake. Remembering that rehearsal helps me approach problems with less fear. Instead of waiting for the "perfect" answer, I try different approaches, test them, and adjust. That process almost always leads to a better outcome.

Looking back, the rehearsal was more than just preparation for the state assessment. It was the moment I learned the importance of improvement that comes from trying, failing, and adjusting. That mindset shaped how I work today, both in music and in IT.