1. **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.**

I’ve always been interested in learning new languages and cultures, however, I have never had the right incentive or efficient way of learning it. But I found Eurovision to be an innovative way for me to solve this problem, primarily because I was interested in this artform that showed me music’s ability to exceed the limitations that languages border themselves with. I would find a Eurovision song that I liked, whether it’d be German, Greek or Italian, then I would do what any ordinary fellow would do. I’d listen to the song on an almost constant basis, all day and all night. I did this subconsciously because it would allow me to also memorise the lyrics of the songs by heart. Once I had achieved this, I would then look up the English translations of these songs, so that I could both understand the meaning of the words used in the songs, while also being able to connect to the songs on a much deeper level. This basically became my own innovative method of understanding love connotated vocabulary in foreign languages.

Something else I managed to make out of with the help of Eurovision was finding ways to play unknown songs with friends. Since not all the musical chords of the songs were readily available on the internet, me and my peers spent time trying to work out on our own the chords of these songs. I would try to visualise the finger picking or strumming techniques of the guitar chords, while my friends would play the chords and perfect it. However, most of the time I just stuck to singing and drumming, where I could just jump in whenever they were in a good swing and we would just carry on from there. Even though we barely managed to play the songs, at least we had a good time trying, which on the bright side, made me feel more connected to my peers. From Eurovision, I ended up learning a lot. I found my own limitations as a musician and I found ways to reach out to my peers and we’d collaboratively work on solving them together. I managed to learn little bits of different languages, but a detail I left out was that I learned a lot of new history about the European music scene. My extensive research of Eurovision helps me understand little bits of history and how they have helped Eurovision’s present.

Hey! So this was an understandable and overall a well-thought out experience to answer this prompt. Including your feelings and the drive and motivation behind what you do allows the readers to look at this from a more personal and emotive aspect. Including your relationship with music and friends is also a fun way to show what you value.

One thing I think should be made a bit clear was the creative aspect you’re trying to optimize. While I read the first sentence and naturally assumed that you would discuss language and culture, it was not as coherent once you discussed music in the second paragraph. For example, you could instead focus on the cultural aspect on the second paragraph; maybe about the research you did on the European music scene.

I definitely know that being a musician is a big part of who you are, so I understand that while you’d like to include your abilities in drumming and guitar, it may not flow with the introductory statement in the first paragraph. If my mind serves me right, the UC essay has a 350-word limit, and this draft is a bit over the word count. Remember that you want to focus on the prompt—while you should express yourself, be mindful of the limit you’re imposed with. It’s totally fine to include that you’re a musician, but it would make the essay more polished if you elaborate on all the statements you typed. So if you want to focus on music, mention what music is to you: what love were you talking about? If you want to focus on language and culture, how does this affect your creativity?