Please help suggest which part to cut, cos currently it’s still over by 100 words.

Discuss an accomplishment, event, or realisation that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others.

It was back at 2014’s Moonshine Jungle Concert Tour that I started dreaming.

Showers of fireworks, laser lights, and silver confetti filled up the stage. Bruno Mars picked up his surf-green Fender Stratocaster and casually sang "Our First Time” as he greeted his hysteric fans.

The whole stage shook at his presence. Loyal fans chanting his name. They would jam to his record for hours. *I wanted to be like him someday.*

Day and night, I would practice new techniques and riffs. I signed up for intensive courses from a lead guitarist of a local rock band. Youtube videos ranging from ACDC’s “Back in Black” until Wes Montgomery’s jazz licks would be repeated over and over until I got the feel of it. At school, I would even hum randomly during lunch, only to experiment with a new melody in my head. It came to the point that my dream grew into an ambition, and my ambition turned into an obsession.

August 2017. My teacher invited me to join an audition for my church’s youth band.

*Here is my chance!* My first milestone is in sight. I perfected two songs, and performed in front of famous band members, only to receive a rejection couple of days later. The news struck me real hard. I felt miserable, dejected. It was *only* an audition for a church band, and I failed. Was my hard work not enough?

Weeks passed by. Even months passed by. I got back on my feet, and I continued perfecting my craft.

One night, as I was studying, my parents had a massive argument and I heard my 11-year old brother crying softly in his room. In an instant, I was by his side, comforting him.

I took my guitar and played Hillsong’s “Cry of the Broken” to help soothe him. After a while, his demeanor lightened. He started throwing balls at me again and we played FIFA.

Looking back at that night, I may not remember what my parents were quarreling about, but I’ll always remember that subtle yet clear epiphany about playing a guitar. It comforted my brother, and it felt...great.

, I realized that my dream of playing music on stage is just a mere road out of the myriad of journeys I can pursue. Music, using various kinds of instruments, personalities, or emotions, can be used to create an impact to other people in uncountable ways.

When my close friend is stressed, I would play our favorite Backstreet Boys song and sing them together.

When my school is competing in tournaments, I would encourage and hype them up with Queen’s classic “We Are the Champions” or The Beatles’ “Come Together”.

When I’m having a huge fight with my girlfriend, we would calm down, breathe, and reconnect with each other through the guitar, even before we start speaking again.

I decided to keep this new mindset and use my guitar as an act of expressing myself better and to encourage and motivate other people through different situations.

Six months later, during the second-round of auditions, I finally got accepted to my church’s youth band. I was happy, but not as happy as I thought I would be. I don’t need to have huge concerts to demonstrate my ability and show my emotions. It is more important that I could use my guitar to spread my message and make a positive impact to my closest circle.

And now, this new realization does not only affect my guitar experience. The importance of looking at a wider horizon of opportunities, instead of just a single mountain of obsession, extends to all experiences I encountered in my life.

Helping my friends for their exams. Developing my passion in corporate finance. Singing together with families and friends. I now see everything big picture, a process, instead of a series of ambitions to fulfill.

In the end, Bruno Mars can easily rock the stage and move fans with his electrifying band. I may not have 22.1M Instagram followers, but I know that I touch the audience when they say “I know it was you playing”, even when they do not see me.

Hi Daven,

What a powerful and strong essay! I feel really hooked and felt a roller coaster of emotions while reading your essay. Please find my comments on the side of the document, looking forward to reading the next draft!

Best of luck,

Matahari

All-in Essay Editor

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NO NEED TO REVIEW:

Alternate personal essay: daven’s advice

Jangan tentang financial problems

Focus on other things how u communicate with owner or founder of company

Mreka ngeyel

Gamau dengerin walaupun salah

Not showcasing in terms of financial analysis

The point is in everything else

Communication, negotiation,

Surrounding the business problem itself

Not only fixing the problems

When facing clients, other skillsets juga perlu (reflection basically how i learn about these skillsets rather than the knowledge or academic interest itself)

Devi’s comment:

Good try! There are more content in there, but I think we need to reduce the cliche parts.

Essay prompt:

* Discuss an accomplishment, event, or realisation that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others.

Essay theme: Don’t get obsessed with just one thing, otherwise you will miss out on other things that could be a lot more meaningful to you. Always keep in mind the bigger picture so you have a wider horizon / view towards anything.

Personal brand to highlight: always trying to be a better version of yourself (driven, ambitious) but not obsessive, committed (always try to finish what you started), value people

Essay outline:

Opening:

That first three paragraph → combine it into one - two paragprah.

Maybe you can just talk about the brunomars concert briefly, and say that one day you wanna have your own concert.

Body:

You started working hard since then (describe how), and then you get your first chance to have your own stage during an audition for a church band. And then you failed. (describe how you feel, your thoughts, etc)

Describe how you motivate yourself (what went through your mind etc), how you do things differently. (DRIVEN AND COMMITTED)

* When I failed, I did not stop and keep on practicing harder until I’m accepted at the church audition

Climax:

Talk about how did you learn about focusing on why you like playing guitar in the first place -- to comfort people, to express your own feelings, to share your arts; not about fame

* Along the way, as I’m practicing harder, I feel much more enjoyable to play guitar when I could use it to personally create new moments and memories (examples of experience) rather than just to perform in a big crowd.
* Examples: Self-expression, encouraging other people, comforting other people

Resolution:

Talk about what you learned, how your values / perspective change; talk about what’s truly important to you.

* What’s most important is to accomplish the goal, but to enjoy the process of achieving the goal in different ways.
  + Examples
    - Comforting a depressed friend (stressed about school and personal)
    - Giving encouragement to school teams through playing guitar
    - Having quality time and getting to know friends and family deeper
    - One time when I’m fighting with my brother, I used guitar as a way to comfort and reconnect, solving our issues
    - Being an ice breaker for family and friend gatherings
    - Bringing my parents closer to God through guitar
* It feels satisfying and comforting —> There are many ways you can go in fulfilling your dreams, not only by playing in huge crowds
* Although I don’t have my own concert where I’m playing in front of huge crowds cheering and waiting for your guitar solos, I know that my guitar is personalised and is touching for my families and friends in different ways
  + Motivating
  + Encouragement
  + Creating deep quality moments
  + AND THAT IS A BIGGER SATISFACTION FOR ME

Potential Outline:

* Watching a cool band concert
  + Bruno Mars on March 2014 (Moonshine Jungle Tour)
  + Doo?Wops & Hooligans
  + being invited by parent
* Being a guitarist could be so cool
  + Watch how people use guitar to pick up girls
* Started touching a guitar, and practice couple of song riffs
* One night, imagined being in a stage being famous and performing an incredible guitar skills in front of thousands of crowds
* Started to audition for youth band —> GET REJECTED (only one musicians picked)
* Hope down, dreams crushed
* Church mentor explain that music can be used to impact other people
  + I started remembering small details of how I impacted other people with guitar
    - Comforting a depressed friend (stressed about school and personal)
    - Giving encouragement to school teams through playing guitar
    - Having quality time and getting to know friends and family deeper
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