Tell us about who you are. How would your family, friends, and/or members of your community describe you? If possible, please include something about yourself that you are most proud of and why.

I don’t care what people say. In middle school I held the record for wearing the same outfit eight Fridays in a row. While others were showing off their trendy clothes, I wore my signature blue tee and black shorts. Being in my own lane has always been my identity; I take pride in being different and expressing myself the way I want to, no matter of people’s opinions.

Throughout my years as a teenager, I have learned that everyone has their own roles in their surroundings, be it a community or even the world. Recently, I had a project where everyone in class had to pick their own output for a Chemistry project between music, art, or storytelling. After the polls were taken in, I found out that I was the only one that had chosen to write a song. It was a group project, so I was the odd one out. However, I didn’t feel uncomfortable because music was my passion and my choice of expression. I didn’t care if I was the different one or that I had to do my task individually in what was originally a group project, as long as I could be myself.

I have come to believe that there are 7 billion people for a reason: each of us has our own roles. It’s something that I will always be proud of as part of my identity and as one of the biggest weapons in my arsenal going forward. I don’t care if I’m not popular, or mainstream, or famous. I want people to remember me as who I really am.