**Name: *Hammad Javaid* Roll number: i*21-1661***

**WHY DO I LOVE PAKISTAN?**

A question that puts everyone in a frame of mind that they go about thinking all day long. Being a Canadian born Pakistani, identity had always been a dilemma for me. Considering I took my first breath in a place far away from Pakistan, as a kid I never thought of it as home. But for some odd reason Canada wasn’t home either. Looking back, it feels like maybe deep down I always knew my roots lie elsewhere. Now as an adult I know that Pakistan and only Pakistan is my home. It is the identity that I had always searched for, and for this and a million other reasons I fell in love with Pakistan on the day my mom said to my five-year-old self “We’re going home.”

My first day in my homeland made me fall in love with the country; my country. For the first time I felt like I belonged. The people, the places, the food, the culture; everything felt mine. That was how I started loving my country and haven’t stopped ever since. Identity is the main reason for my instinctive love for the country.

However, there are many other reasons that awakened my conscious love for Pakistan. The first being the ideology of Islam it is based on and the socially accepting and loving society which doesn’t care if you’re rich or poor or Muslim, Christian or Hindu, as long as you’re a Pakistani you belong. With its rich culture with centuries of stories, traditions and colorful customs, the desi cuisine with ever so delicious food and the beautiful picturesque places from the mountains of the north to the beautiful plains of Punjab and the beaches of Gwadar and Sindh, Pakistan will always have a special place in my heart.