A lot can be said about the introduction of the project nationhood by Josephine Dionisio as it provides clues as to how we may motivate the next generation to put up a collage of a more hopeful Filipino nation and invent ways of achieving it. However, if I had to pick two major ideas that struck me the most after reading the paper, the first one would be the line that says, “None of us is born nationalist”, all ideas that are written in the paper boil down to this plain but powerful statement, which is true. And the second one would be, the statement that said, “Media has spawned a society that feeds on spectacles that now shape public discourse” which I will be discussing to associate with the first idea.

The first time we've become aware of nationalism and the nation as a whole was when our parents taught us about it, specifically when we went to school to practice displays of nationalism such as reciting the pledge of allegiance to the flag, and singing the national anthem, etc. And since none of us is born nationalist, technically we have the right to choose what nationality we want to associate with or identify with. We simply cannot box ourselves into thinking that being for instance a Filipino can only be defined by citizens who reside in the Philippines, or by persons who fulfill the stereotype that to be a Filipino, one must know Tagalog, have brown complexion who wears barong Tagalog, baro’t saya, and loves to practice the Mañana habit, and such. Which obviously, we do not resemble any of the images mentioned above at all even though we are so sure that we are indeed Filipinos. A lot of Filipinos don’t even wear barong or baro’t saya in a daily basis, some of them don’t even have a brown complexity, but they identify themselves as Filipino. And I’ve come to realize that the nationality dilemma somehow resonates not only with the present Filipino society, but also globally, prime example is? during the Miss Universe pageant.

As we all know, the Philippines has gained a reputation as one of the world's pageant powerhouses, with the longest streak of candidates entering the semifinals in previous Miss Universe pageants. People all over the world are eagerly awaiting the announcement of who will represent the Philippines, knowing that she will be a strong candidate. However, several social media posts have been circulating online questioning the nationality of some of the Philippines' representatives, claiming that some of them are not pure Filipinas. I could practically associate the second key idea that hit me the most with this take, and it has to do with media. Media especially mass media has become very powerful in this age of modern communications technology. The media plays a central role in informing the public about what happens in the world and people rely on media, to get news and updates. Anyone can now find out almost anything they want to know by the click of a button on their smartphone or tablet. However, with how intoxicating the media is today, it does tend to have the power to shape public opinion and make people tend to just join in the so-called bandwagon propaganda that sometimes they don’t even care about the issue anymore, they just want to spread hate.

Back in the issue about banning biracial candidates in the Miss Universe. People in the cyber world think that candidates from the Philippines should be full-blooded Filipino and the cycle of joining non-full-blooded candidates should stop. The most recent titleholder of Miss Universe from the Philippines, Ms. Catriona from 2018 is a Filipino-Australian. Because of this, several countries allegedly joined a petition to ban half-blooded candidates from joining the said prestigious pageant. How do they even have the right to call out this issue when we are already in a contemporary world where some of us or even the majority of people are not even full-blooded Filipino because of the so-called colonization. I really don’t think this is an insult at all because first, no law has been violated, and ethnically speaking, Ms. Catriona is still a Filipino since her mother is a Filipino, whether she’s Australian by birth or not. She has said that she is proud to be Pinay, what rights do we actually have to discredit that and ban her from fulfilling her dream of fighting for the country she is so proud of? If we base it on the visual standard that represents us as Filipino citizens, I could argue right here, right now that you, me, and us are not truly full-blooded Filipino citizens. I'm not really sure why this is still a problem today; after all, even if you think you’re Filipino or not, you still patronize goods from other countries, like eating Samgyupsal, ramen, or watch Hollywood series, and you don’t see us insult you nor discredit your citizenship. From the liberal perspective which emphasizes individualism and individual rights, honestly, this is not a good thing and should be stopped here and now. Not only it doesn’t bring benefits socially, but it also doesn’t promote freedom individually. Let people decide which nationality they want to associate with or affiliate with.

Overall, the article says that in order to be a Filipino in the global age, one only needs to invent one's own identity. In this way, nationalism can be produced at will, with only human imagination, and just accept that a person is a combination of their experiences, including where they come from and how they view or choose to see things rather than basing it on political entities or territorial bounds. And, in light of the current issues we are facing today, I've come to realize that we can move toward a genuine Filipino identity and a better country if we can all collectively practice and believe the narrative that being a Filipino by blood or history is no longer defines who we are; instead, we should stop allowing these to make us feel insecure about ourselves as Filipinos and begin to empower our generation to create our own collage of the Filipino Nation.