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Overcoming Conflicting Beliefs

As humans were made to believe at a young age that everything has a purpose, tables, chairs and beds all have purposes that reflect their use. This is the same for humans, its philosophy originated in our innate desire to feel needed and the feeling that our life means more than just a phase we go through along our journey of existence. In my darkest times, my loves ones never failed to remind me, that no matter what, the minute of uncertainty is all worth it in the end because we are all put here for a reason.

There are fixed things that I know I must get done in life; to be successful, have a family, and get an education. Although those things are necessary for a good life, it's the in between stuff that scares me. In getting older and seeing my high school years pass by, made me think about what I have to offer to the world. What is the one thing intrinsic to my life that I can call my thing, the thing that I'm good at more than anyone else.

In a time where self-discovery is more prominent than ever, quarantine has led me to look deep within myself to find my purpose. The issue is that when I reached the bottom pit of my subconscious, I was left with a blank canvas, unable to find the materials needed to create something, and pursue the unthinkable; to figure out why I'm here and what I can bring to the world. I'm great at sports like soccer, and creative classes like construction, but I've also always had an interest in subjects like law. With 3 different possible directions to go to, I found myself questioning everything as I struggled to choose. This became an issue as I drew a blank and started to doubt my abilities in everything I've ever tried or accomplished. It ultimately lead me to doubt myself. I got the feeling that because I haven't figured that out yet, especially at a time

where I'm figuring out my next step, and basically laying the foundation of my future, I'll never truly get to fully live my life, with the greatest amount of happiness and adventure.

Throughout the process of applying to schools and looking within, I'm starting to think that it's ok to not have a clue about who you are and the purpose that you serve in life. I think that what stopped me from accepting this at first was my fear of failure. The fear to fail at something I love, and the thought of disappointing myself and the people that rely on me being successful, like my mom who is single handedly taking care of my sister and I. She works this hard with the hope that someday I won't have to. A phrase that my mom likes to say, is "Rome wasn't built in a day". To truly find my place in the world I first have to get to know the world and all it has to offer and that takes time.

I now look at the belief that everyone has a purpose as a starting point into self-actualization. You can be the most organized, driven and efficient kid out there and still not know anything about the world or yourself. Fear of the future is the igniting force that leads your canvas to stay blank. To have an idea of what you want, you must first be open to try and accept that it's ok to not be ok and to not know anything.

As a senior on the cusp of becoming a legal adult, throughout this year, looking within myself, as months in quarantine went by with a blank canvas, although it's not a clear picture, there's a splash of optimism and with a dash of excitement now left on the mural that is my purpose.