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**Media & Factors That Identifies Oneself**

Media started off with the printing press and making books. Eventually, media has bloomed into many outlets of communication methods today, such as social media, messaging, news articles, as well as emailing. To me, identity means all the specific characteristics that you resonate with as well as what your friends or family members describe you as. The following identities will be addressed in this personal narrative: environment/neighborhood, friends, hobbies, and media. Media surrounds us today and plays a key role in connecting everyone around the world.

Los Angeles is home to Dodger Stadium, the Rose Bowl, as well as all the picturesque beaches: Venice, Santa Monica, Malibu. I was lucky to be born in a great city with lots of activities to do. LA is hot and dry summers with moderate not so cold fall and winter weather. During the colder weather seasons, I would constantly wear hoodies outdoors. My clothing mostly consists of Hollister sweaters, jeans, and shirts, paying homage to my hometown. I remember the palm trees, and the beautiful skies, like it was yesterday. In August of 2020, I moved to Brooklyn, New York. This was a massive change and a revelation for me, since I have never moved states before. This has shaped me because I have lived in LA for most of my life, and this is my recollection of my great hometown. This has also shaped me since my neighborhood or environment taught me to go out and explore all the wonderful events that goes on in a city.

During my younger years, I moved schools from elementary to middle school (Kindergarten to third grade, then switched schools for fourth through eighth grades). It was a big adjustment for me, although I did not really have a lot of friends in elementary school. On the first day in my middle school back in August of 2013, a boy named Luis took me under his wing and mentored me all throughout these years. I stay connected with him to this very day, and our friendship is nine plus years strong. He taught me to always be aware of the people I surround myself with. Also, he taught me that if I ever need to speak up on a personal issue, I should do so. If I were to have a personal issue/event going on in my life, I would tell a friend and incorporate their ways to help cope with said situation. I describe myself as a guy who is honest, and comforting. If one of my friends were going through a tough time in their life, I try my best to understand the situation overall, then speak on it and steps to help resolve the outcome or issue. Friendships have shaped me because I used to lie to my parents, and having friends who are positive role models, they told me to always be as transparent and honest as I can be.

Technology has always been a major interest for me. I fell love with computers, smartphones, and the like during my younger years. Overall, technology is changing in our fast-paced world, and I try on stay on top of most of the technology and electronics. My friends and family members always come to me for any advice on buying electronics or general technology issues and fixes. When buying a new device or technology product, I always say that if your current device/product still works, there should be no reason for a person to spend more money on a new device. I watch a lot of YouTube videos to learn more about a certain product launch. I can easily look up products and see their reviews as well as price(s) now. When I did not have a phone at all, during my younger years, I would have to rely on my own surroundings and ask people around. Now, I can look up addresses on my phone and navigate to my destination with ease.

I am luckily born as a Gen-Z human being with many forms of media existing in today’s world. There are many types of social media platforms, such as Instagram, Snapchat, Twitter, Facebook, and TikTok. Instagram is widely used for teenagers to post pictures of themselves as well as stories of what is going on in their lives. I, along with many other people, use the platform to freely express ourselves. In a sense, teenagers are relying on or turning to social media. Teens may be going through a personal issue or trauma and their way to cope is go on Instagram and scroll through different posts on their feeds. With this, media resonates with me because I, with many other teens, post on our individual Instagram feeds. I also investigate my post engagement, likes and comments, so I can feel validated and make myself feel better.

Many other factors, such as culture, the types of music that one listens to, or even what a person does daily, identifies us. Media connects everyone to each other all around the world. Without media, I do not believe any of us teenagers (myself included) would be too interested in what is going on outside right now. The factors discussed (neighborhood/environment, friends, and hobby) motivate me to keep trying my best and hardest at anything in life. With the numbers of teenagers and young adults on the rise as well as the massive amounts of social apps being downloaded, it is no wonder why social media plays a big and vital role in today’s world.