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This I Believe

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Adam Farrands
This I Believe Essay

What makes the different genres of music so different from each other? If you think about it, you can compare almost any two songs and find a number of similarities between the two. As someone who plays the guitar, I can affirm that thousands of different songs can be reduced to the same three chords. And because musicians only have so many different things they can write about, there are hundreds of songs in existence that have the same message, and the same musical structure, yet different people listen to them because they're listed under different genres.

Let's look at two songs in particular that prove this. If I told you that Linkin Park's "Numb", and Miley Cyrus' "Wrecking Ball" were pretty much the same song, you'd probably laugh at me, right? Well, they are. They have the same 4 chords that are in thousands of popular songs; as a matter of fact, these songs also have the same chords as Journey's "Don't Stop Believing", Adele's "Someone Like You", and "Let It Go", from the movie Frozen. And going back to Linkin Park and Miley Cyrus, both of these songs have the same subject matter. They're both about one sided relationships, where the singer is feeling betrayed and worthless to someone they care about.

So what makes these two songs so different? Well, they're different genres. The person who gets really excited when "Wrecking Ball" comes on the radio, is probably not the same person who gets excited when "Numb" comes on the radio. "Numb" has electric guitars, screaming, and can easily be identified as a hard rock song; whereas "Wrecking Ball" has a very digital sound and can be identified as pop music.

I believe that by following this metaphor, everyone is their own song. We as humans have the same structure; we all breath air, drink water, and we all need to sleep, just like how just about every song has the same chords and structure. But where we differ is the genre. I believe that everyone going to college should take the time to figure out what genre they fit into; everyone needs to figure out the quality that makes them unquestionably different from the others. This could be a love for an instrument, a sports team, a hobby, or anything else in the world that makes you identifiable to others. For me, It's my love of playing the guitar, the Indianapolis Colts, and playing board games with my friends that make me different from most people.

In high school, everyone figured out what they're good at. Perhaps they were good at talking to people, or helping others, so they decided to go to school to be a teacher. Or perhaps they were really good at math, so they decided to go to school to be an engineer. Or maybe they were really good at anatomy and decided to become a doctor. But now that you know what

you're good at, and how you will make money in the future, it's time to figure out what you love and how you can make it a part of your identity. In other words, I believe that college is fundamentally important not only for academics and the prospects of a career, but also for the chance to become an individual.