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## La Música Es Vida

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# La Música Es Vida

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## Susana Padilla

When I think of music I think of my family. I think of a collection of classic artists—Ana Gabriel, Vicente “Chente” Fernandez, Pepe Aguilar, Antonio Aguilar, Los Temerarios, Los Bukis, Los Caminantes and many more. Mariachi music evokes in me many memories of waking-up to my mother’s spring cleaning, or to one of her mean breakfasts, made with a lot of love. I can picture the way she would always put her hair up and tie it with a bandana and would use the escoba como su micrófono para cantarse las canciones de “Chente.”

Music is the one thing, other than food, that I feel brings the best of people together, it did in my family. La música y la comida were the best combination of it all. I remember the reunions thrown by family. We would have banda, tamborazo, y Mariachi music at full blast, while other family members would be singing, crying, drinking, and reminiscing about old times in the rancho. Talking about how good it felt to be with loved ones. My mother rarely played music loudly, but my siblings and I were always singing along to songs which we have no clue what the titles were.

Music was there for my siblings and me when we felt the powerful words of King Kendrick Lamar, knowing that there was a voice to the violent things we saw. Creating the poetic verses for the feelings that cannot be described. I am from the Los Angeles South Central area and it is difficult to not get mad when you live in an area full of violence, but it is possible. If it wasn’t for music like MADD City or Section 8 or Artists, like Tupac that put feeling and relatable meaning into their music, then I don’t know if my siblings and I would have been able to survive and “have hope”. Music helps heal the soul and keep a person going. Music helps bring people together and establishes a sense of hope and understanding. Music can help evoke the feelings that people

struggle to express, feelings that I believe that only music can put into words. La Música es Vida.

## **Reflection**

The freewrites that I had the privilege to do in ES 107 Chican@ and Latin@ Lives class was one of the more reflecting experiences I have ever had. When we were given prompts in class I felt as if I could go back in time to recall a memory that made me really think about what was said. One of my two favorite prompts I did was the one where we talked about dreams. I had abstract thoughts about the prompt, and it made me realize that writing did not always mean staying within the lines and being so rigid when it came down to it. It helped me grow as a writer because I realized that writing isn't so hard and that I do not have to restrain my ideas so much.

It also helped me learn how to start writing a paper, making multiple drafts and not worrying about my side thoughts as long as I always go back to the prompt, and kept writing.

The entry that I am submitting for publication is the piece that came out after I realized what abstract writing is. When it came to talking about music, my heart poured out into the paper in front of me and it was as if my pen knew what my heart was pouring out and put it into writing. I love my music piece because I feel like it goes back all the way to my roots. Music is life to me and my siblings, my mom might have not played it so much but when she did it was always a great experience. I feel like almost everyone should be able to connect to music.

Music is truly, in my belief, that which can help you connect, feel, and express.

Music is life.