

FIRST DRAFT

When I first told my mom I wanted to be a cheerleader her response was to say to me “ Artists and cheerleaders were on opposite ends of the spectrum when I went to school.” Others who I told laughed. Sarah B a Cheerleader. But those who knew me well understood. Even though I am an artist there are to many different components to me other than artist to label myself to just that. And even though I am a cheerleader that doesn’t make up everything about me. There is so much more.

During my years in high school there has been more than one occasion were I have left my art room with paint covering my face. It’s something that can’t be helped when you’re an art student and an artist. In my opinion art allows someone to be whomever they want. You could be the classic oil painter or the bold graphic designer. In my venture with art I have created many pieces that can be classified on both sides. Which to me somewhat reflects my personality-- Able to fit in one section while desiring to fit everywhere.

As a member of my high schools varsity cheerleading team I contain many qualities that a typical cheerleader should. I am loud, peppy and love to encourage school spirit. However just because I am a cheerleader does not mean I have all the “typical” cheerleader qualities. I am not the way I am because

of cheerleading but the opposite. I am a cheerleader because of the way and the person I am. It's an opportunity for me to express my smiling, loud, outgoing self.

I consider art and cheerleading on the opposite ends of my interests and passions in life. But it would be hard to consider them my only ones. My peculiar interest in ancient Egypt as a child turned into somewhat a passion in life. From reading every book concerning Egypt whether it be fiction or non, to even traveling to the country itself. But it doesn't stop there. I also enjoy golfing, I even consider myself a golfer. I should be as the prime candidate for captain of my school varsity golf team, however I have stumbles like everyone and have lost more balls than I can count which leads me to believe that I am not the next Tiger but just a person who adores the sport.

These things, I consider them the flavors, they are the flavors that make up my life. Like Ben and Jerry's ice cream the more the better. Ben even said once that he could not taste the ice cream without all the different ingredients. To me I can't taste life without its different flavors. I can't just be plain vanilla, or traditional strawberry. I am rainbow sherbet artist mixed with mint golfer mixed with Cheerleader berry, and sprinkled with Egypt sand chips and many other flavors and interesting ingredients that make up my interests. They all blend together to create something truly wonderful

FINAL DRAFT

When I first told my mom I wanted to be a cheerleader, her response was, “Artists and cheerleaders were on opposite ends of the spectrum when I went to school. “Others whom I told laughed. Sarah _____ a cheerleader? But those who knew me well understood. I had always wanted to be a cheerleader, and even though I was an artist, they saw my art for what it really was, something that I enjoy doing but does not define me.

During my years in high school, there have been many occasions when I have left the art room looking like a Jackson Pollock painting. It’s something that can’t be helped when you’re an art student. Every morning for four years, I have gone to Ms. Rittaco’s art class with other advanced art students. I have sat at one of the four tables that form a square, set up an area, and disappeared into my own world for forty-five minutes. Specific pieces remind me of the highlights of my art career so far, like my self-portrait in unrealistic bright pastels, or my aquatic scene that focuses not on fish but on two masks in the center, a happy one and a sad one; it took months to create, and even though I do not consider it especially beautiful, it represents how emotions can be hidden below the surface. I also love my graphic black pastel silhouette of a ballerina on a pink background that fades from light to dark. Another one of my favorites is a recent pastel of one lonely barren tree with the nighttime sky and moon in its background. Art allows me freedom to express myself. I can be the classic oil painter or the bold graphic designer. I love that art gives me the ability to be who I wish and doesn't make me feel like I need to be a certain person in order to create it.

It’s hard to picture someone who spends a great deal of time painting in a

cheerleading uniform, but if you want an example, just look to me. As a member of my high school's varsity cheerleading team, I contain many qualities that a cheerleader needs to have. I am loud, peppy, and love to encourage school spirit. The other day at practice, my coach asked us all to say the eight counts out loud as we danced. My coach had to stifle her laughter at how my voice boomed, and the other cheerleaders quickly stopped counting and let me lead, as my voice echoed throughout our dome-like-gym. Some people think of cheerleaders as superficial fakes who have nothing in their heads other than thoughts of themselves. The idea of such a person makes me cringe. However, being a cheerleader represents something different for me. I choose to do cheerleading because I enjoy supporting others, and I love showing school spirit. I am not in it for the uniform. I also enjoy the stunting aspect of cheerleading. I don't need to plaster a fake smile on my face when I am holding a girl above my head. Although I feel the burn throughout my body as I hold my flyer, it's not a chore but a privilege; I know I'm pushing myself to new limits with my team members and showing the crowd something they find truly amazing. Being a cheerleader is an opportunity for me to express my smiling, loud, outgoing self, and stunting allows me to push myself to new limits.

Yes, as my mother said, art and cheerleading are as opposite as the people who do them. However, I like how different they are. I can be a creator and a performer. I can push myself in cheerleading and follow the guidelines, while in art I can break all the rules. They both allow me to express who I am.