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Student

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Art Matters

When we are young we are asked “what do you want to be when you grow up?” Some may say a scientist, the president, a ballerina, or maybe even a movie star. However, this question doesn’t leave us. We go through elementary, middle and finally high school. Again, we are asked “what careers are you thinking about?” And again, we will answer, but this time one of the kids will become a scientist, the other a ballerina and the other a movie star. **Science,** Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) is a focal point in education today. Schools all the country have implemented in the STEM program to help students achieve success in the ever-growing technology field. With this, art is being left behind. So, the kid who wants to be a ballerina and the other who wants to be a movie star may be looked down upon by others because they will have an unique career. Moving into the college years, we realize we can do whatever we want. College is a time to explore and expand your knowledge in your career focus. Many college campuses have a well defined art program, along with science, technology, engineering, and math programs. **Every one,** in college, is creating a career they want to be successful in. Art can be a successful career especially since it is a big part of creativity that can go hand in hand with **STEM.**

I have been dancing ever since I was little. Music would come on and my body would instantly take over and move to the beat. Every Thanksgiving morning, I watched the Radio City Rockettes perform, on the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade. I’d always get up and pretend I

Commented [LS1]: I like the way you began this introduction with a scenario many of us can likely relate to – being asked what we want to be when we grow up and the imaginative answers that we, as children, typically respond with. This made me think and reflect on my own experience growing up and changing what I wanted to be from “artist” to “writer” to being very unsure. Interesting!

Commented [LS2]: Everyone

Commented [LS3]: Nice! Really clear purpose that you’re writing with and I like the way this introduction brings your audience into your position/discussion using ideas/scenarios they can relate to

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was a part of their iconic kick line. I was that little girl, in the audience, that would sit in awe at the theatre and anxiously await for the curtain to open. Really, that still happens today. At twenty-two years old I am still a giddy five year old, at heart. It's safe to say dance is a big part of my identity. I'll be honest, I was a little late to the dance world. Even though I would always dance when I was younger, I didn't start taking an actual dance class until I was sixteen. And, wow, my perspective on that world changed, instantly. I fell even more in love with this sport. I have been dancing for seven years, along with being in different theatre productions. This is a world I didn't want to leave. My sisters were involved in cross country and tennis, but not me. I was on my high schools dance team and in the musicals. I enjoyed every rehearsal and performance. It's something I love so why would I just give it up after high school? I wanted to still be involved, but every one told me that there is no money in the arts. Apparently, I'd be a "struggling artist" or "unsuccessful". So, I decided to continue dance, in my free time, and major in a career that seemed like a good choice.

Commented [LS4]: Love this image!

I started my college career at BGSU Firelands, where I decided I wanted to major in Biology. As much as I loved dance, I also cared deeply about our environment and I wanted to help make a difference. I thought it was a good choice since science is such a big part of today's society. During this time, I was in the dance studio three days a week, along with competing and working for dance competitions. Dance was my hobby and biology was my career, but as I spent more time dancing, my passion and interest in biology decreased. I wanted to perform not sit in a classroom. At this time, I started second guessing my first choice, in a major. My second-year rolls around and I am still unsure about my major, so my academic advisor suggested I meet with a career advisor. Before meeting with the career advisor, I had to take a test to place my artistic, scientific and social abilities. I think it is kind of hard to test this, but I took it and it placed me. I

Commented [LS5]: I really like the way your narrative not only speaks to your personal experience but also relates to your introduction + the more general scenario you describe there

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met with the advisor and we talked a bit. She asked me what I was interested in and I told her about my dancing and she looked at me said “well according to your test results, you’re not artistic enough to be a dancer.” I was in shock and my heart shattered. We continued the meeting and came to the conclusion of me going in to physical therapy. Yet again, back to science. However, with this I figured I could combine the two. With physical therapy, I could be around dancers and productions so I’d still, in a different way, be a part of that world. In the article “How Art Motivates STEM Learning” it states “not everyone fits the profile for a traditional scientist, and STEM careers today are wide-ranging” (How). I’m definitely not the traditional scientist so I thought combining a career and my hobby was something spectacular.

In the spring semester of my second-year, I take classes that would count towards my physical therapy major. However, I switched my major again because I was just not interested. I was throwing around the idea of a dance, communication or a public relations major, but nothing felt right. I wanted to be a dance major, but parents were not too intrigued. I was upset and lost and I just had no clue on what I wanted to do. Luckily, that weekend my friend Lauren came home and we went to grab some coffee. We were talking about different majors and different colleges I could possibly attend. I said “I want to be a dance major, but my parents aren’t happy about that. I was thinking of minoring in communications or PR.” And then Lauren said, “why not flip it? Major in communications with a minor in dance. This way you can combine the two and still be within that lifestyle.” I took that advice and ran and now I am a third year student at BGSU with a major in communications and a minor in dance. It took me so long to figure out I don’t have to have a career in the sciences because I can be successful in my art. When talking to Robby Brumfield, a film major at the University of Toledo, he stated “they see it [art] being less professional as if jobs in the arts aren’t actually jobs” (Brumfield). However, we often forget that

Commented [LS6]: I still...just really don't know what this means or how they test "artistic" levels. Sigh.

Commented [LS7]: She sounds like a smart lady with a smart name 😊

Commented [LS8]: Yes. Nice job drawing in some source material here that relates to this experience.

art is a way to initiate our creativity. It is something that cannot be forgotten about. Many college campuses have a variety of majors in all aspects of art, science, math and engineering. It really is an any person, any study environment. So, why are art majors looked down upon? Why do others think they don't have just enough, if not more work than your typical science major? It's because many think art is an easy field. However, this field requires an immense amount of creativity, communication skills and imagination to create the projects they work on.

Unfortunately there have been schools that take money from the art programs and focus on more STEM related programs. For example, Cornell University has recently started to defund the cinema program. In the article, "Funding Art is Important" it states "it is a vital source of education, not merely a movie theatre" (DiStefano). Film/Video is a part of everyday life. We watch documentaries to learn about our history or the environment and we learn so much from those videos. It is a vital part of education, sometimes. Because of this DiStefano is taking a stand and fighting for the cinema to stay. He states "it is vital that Cornell continue to fund the consumption and appreciation of art and humanities so they remain true to their motto of committed excellence to every discipline" (DiStefano). Cornell isn't a school that primarily focuses on STEM, so it is vital that the cinema stay. Art, depending on whatever it is, can take people away from troubles and for a few moments or hours take them to a different world. That is why art sparks our creativity. It makes us think in ways we never thought we could. It makes us create new worlds or ideas to help better understand something. Many colleges have defined art programs. The University of Toledo has small film program, but it is a very educational program. When talking to a UT student about going to school for film he states "the biggest benefit from going to school for film is making connections" (Brumfield). Within this program, he is able to meet people and work with others that share the same passion and others that know

Commented [LS9]: This transition is working for me. I like the way you're using your experience to set up this later source material. I see you starting to form connections between your personal experiences and the examples/research pointed out in your primary and secondary sources.

You could even further develop this transition by speaking directly to your experience. Do you have an example of \$ being pulled from an art program toward a STEM program? Or do you see similarity between *you* being drawn away and \$\$ being drawn away?

Commented [LS10]: Make sure to use paragraph/page numbers when citing a text-based source. This way we can find where in the source you're pulling this information from.

different techniques, as well. Art is a way to expand your horizons, meet new people and make connections.

I'm a third year student at BGSU. I am a dance minor, but I am fully immersed in the dance program. I am a part of the University Dance Alliance and the Repertory Dance Ensemble. I have rehearsals almost everyday, along with my academic classes and dance classes. It is a lot of physical, mental, and sometimes emotional activity, especially with show weeks. Usually we have one day off, but the rest of the week is tech/dress rehearsals and then the shows. However, nothing in my academic classes stop. I still have exams, lessons, and projects I have to do within the show week. In the article "13 Things NOT to Say to a Dance Major" Raimondo goes through phrases that many dance majors/minors have to deal with. One of the quotes is "your classes must be so easy". She summarizes how dancers are graded on performance and technique, along with, writing analysis papers and performing in shows. Many students believe it is so easy to be an art major when the answer isn't simple. Dancers have performances, rehearsals, dance classes, and even have cross-fit, as well. Others do not realize how time consuming, physically and mentally draining it can be. We are constantly learning new choreographing and new styles of dance. It's a never ending process. Another quote is "so what do you do with that once you graduate?"(Raimondo). Well, there is much more to dance than just performance, you can get into staging, costuming, choreographing, and performance analysis. Just like many other majors a lot of students don't exactly know what they will be doing when they graduate. It's the same for dance. There are jobs in this field just like any science, technology, engineering, or math career.

Dance isn't constricted to only body movements, on a stage. In a few dance performances, it can include different technologies that help create more of an imagined world.

Commented [LS11]: I wonder if you could form a more direct connection between this paragraph and the last one.

Think about the ways in which your paragraphs are connected. What about these different paragraphs relate to each other? Why did you choose to write about these subtopics in the order you did?

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This happened at Case Western Reserve University, just recently. Their graduate dance program joined forces with the radiology program to create a show unlike any other. Through the use of Microsoft HoloLens and the creativity of movement from dance professor, Gary Galbirt, they performed *Imagined Odyssey*. This show drew on popular myths to take the audience through a world of dance and technology working together. We often forget that science and art can go hand in hand. Art sparks creativity and that's just what the science field needs. This performance created the bridge from art to science and science to art. The director, for the university Interactive Commons, stated "it's been an amazing testing ground that further shows this technology's potential to be transformative, not matter the discipline or setting" (Dancing). CWRU created a show that fully immersed an audience into art and technology. They are also pretty well known for their innovation, in the arts and sciences. These two concepts do go hand in hand, contrary to popular belief. Great scientists-like great artists- need to be builders, inventors, and dreamers. Take Leonardo Da Vinci, for example, he was a great scientist and artist. He created his science from the innovation of art.

In recent times, many scholastic programs are now talking about integrating art into STEM, changing the acronym to STEAM, which rolls off the tongue a bit easier. Adding art to STEM isn't about taking away from those other subjects, but rather adding the creativity and innovation it takes to help problem solve or build a project. According to the article "How Art Motivates STEM" it states "the addition of art can provide another avenue for young people to experience success in STEM and aid them in learning the skills they need to be successful." Not everyone is a scientist or a mathematician, a majority of students enjoy an outlet that lets their creativity run free. Therefore, students decide to major in art. It is not simply a hobby; it is where they can see themselves being successful. Brumfield states "those people who are art majors

Commented [LS12]: I love this example. To even further develop your project, you might take a screenshot of this performance and place it in your project. This could help your audience really picture the way these two components go hand in hand and how cool the final performance was!

aren't simply choosing to create, they are compelled to create." Art majors take on many different careers such as dance, theatre, film, language, and social studies, as well. Art isn't a career in a box. It opens and expands the more you learn and innovate. Science and technology is a big part of today's society, but so is art. Art is almost everywhere in our pop culture. This can be from music, movies, TV shows, paintings, sculptures and even certain dances. So, I ask the question again, "why are art majors looked down upon?" Because it has the misconception of the "struggling artist." The success of an art major is unlimited. They have unlimited sources and ideas that can make them successful. When you think of science you don't instantly think of a biologist. You think of all the fields surrounding it. Same goes for art. It is a career that has many fields, just like any other.

I have been dancing ever since I was little and I honestly cannot think of my life without dance.

It is an outlet for creativity. It is an outlet to relieve stress. Art isn't just a structured curriculum it can come in many forms. In the article "My First Year as a Dance Major" it discusses the everyday schedule of a dance major. By the end of her first semester, Emily states "I now know how to trust myself and have conviction in my art." In our world today, we are constantly learning new and exciting things. We are breaking down technological and medical barriers and art plays a part in that innovation. Truly, art is all around us. We just don't realize how much of it we actually consume, on a daily basis. Almost every major has its certain stereotype and has its limitations, but art majors are the ones who are consistently put down because we decided to make our hobby our career. It's a choice that does come with some consequences, but every art major knows the chance they are taking. Ask any college student what they are planning on doing and most have no clue, it's not just the art majors. Our world is filled with creativity and innovation so STEAM should be implemented, in schools because it can create a more diverse

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pool of educators and learners. No one knows the potential issues more than the artist. We are not in it for the money. We are in this because there is nowhere else we'd rather be. This is our passion and the career we have chosen. So, us art majors aren't naive and we know our risks and concerns, but our success is ours and in any way we can make that happen, we **will**.

Commented [LS14]: Cool! I like the way you're claiming your unique position and experience in this conclusion as well as giving your audience something to consider as either they choose majors or maybe guide their children, friends, advisees to different careers + opportunities. I really like the way you've blended your personal experience and your source material to give us a fuller picture of how the arts and STEM can and *should* (!) go together

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