

Ayla Goncalves

30 September 2018

English 101

### 5 Songs that explain my Journey of having my First Baby

Having a baby at 16 can be very laborious, which it was for me. Carrying a baby for 9 months and then having to raise them, not easy at all. I had my moments where I would be very depressed and doubt myself as being a mom. Sometimes I'd just think to myself how would I raise a baby and be in school at the same time. I came from a school where you'd be judged for anything you do, never mind having a baby. Except, when it comes to having a baby there's so many special moments to be shared. These top 5 songs were songs I listened to throughout the journey of carrying my baby and after. This essay of mine will make you feel like you were in those specific moments of my life.

#### **You Raise Me Up By Josh Groban**

"You Raise Me Up" was a song I enjoyed listening to when I was about 6 years old. My sisters and I would sing this loudly with controls in our hands acting like it was a microphone. I then kept this song in my life forever, it's such a loving, caring song. I always tend to cry when listening to this. Reason being is because it reminds me of when I found out that I was pregnant. Finding out I was pregnant left me with so many mixed emotions just as much as this song does. I was happy and also very depressed at moments due to certain circumstances. I mean who wouldn't be after finding out you're about to be a teen parent. I remember how I announced that I was pregnant, by a flipagram which is a slide show that I posted on facebook. For my flipagram I remember I added this song while my pictures were revealing that I was pregnant. This is a

perfect memory, a video and song I'd never forget. I also feel as if the music connected perfectly to my slideshow. "When I am down, and, oh, my soul, so weary, When troubles come, and my heart burdened be", this part of the song indicates how I was feeling at the moment of finding out that I was pregnant. This song then transitions talking about how he was raised to do big things. Everytime i'd hear it i'd picture my daughter saying that to me in just a few years, which made me more than happy. It makes me feel the powerful label as a mom, how the child depends on them. It was a song I loved as a kid, then became a song i loved to hear when I was having my baby. This song will forever continue to grow with me.

### **Halo By Beyonce**

Imagine how it feels to know you're pregnant, but to not know the gender of your baby. I wanted a gender reveal badly, except I didn't want to wait to plan it for weeks to then find out if I was having a baby girl or a baby boy. The day my sisters found out I wanted to just call family over and have a get together right away and find out the gender. The day finally came about a week and a half of my sisters knowing and not I. It was a Sunday afternoon when we decorated my house beautifully, got pretty and found out who I was carrying. That morning I rushed to get ready once everyone arrived my heart started and continued to race. I was so anxious to find out. We hung a box from the ceiling with strings to pull down. Mila's father and I stayed on opposite sides of the box and pulled the strings. While this moment was occurring, the song Halo By Beyonce was playing. This song left me with a memory forever, a very special moment of my life. This song now melts my heart and impacts me. It always reminds me of the moment I found out i was carrying a princess, on top of that it was my very first gender reveal.

### **All Of Me By John Legend**

My baby shower was filled with people, love and gifts which turned out to be one of the best days of my life. I really miss that day and wish we could replay that whole day. Family and friends were gathered and even the ones from far came to celebrate the welcoming of my daughter Mila. I'm not sure if every tradition does this, but in the Cape Verdean culture, when you have a party they wake up around 5:00-6:00 am. During that time until the party we would clean and cook. Just to prepare for the party. In order for my sisters and I to clean we always have to blast music it honestly keeps us moving faster and just be very energetic. I specifically remember one song that reminds me of that whole day because it was played multiple times which is All Of Me by John Legend. I kept listening to this song and although its a love song, but because it was so calm and beautiful I chose to cut my cake to that song. Phones flashing, cameras everywhere, hands clapping and people cheering were all the reactions I could see while standing in front of my cake table. It was such a beautiful moment. That was a memory that'll be shared with my daughter when she's older and videos to be shown to her when we cut her welcoming cake. Upon Mila's arrival, I always said this song may even impact her in the future and do the same when she ends up having her baby as well. As soon as this song comes on, I picture me cutting my cake with pure happiness and smiles dropping everywhere. There isn't one time that I hear that song and not think of that special moment in my life. I'd never forget the song I cut my cake to when I was having my first child.

### **Promise By Jhene Aiko**

One of the billion songs in this world really catches my attention is "Promise" by Jhene Aiko. I one day was planning a sweet 16 for my best friend and she chose to dance to promise by Jhene Aiko. She had danced to this song with a picture of her mom who had passed away, which really made me feel for this song. It describes the relationship between a mother and a daughter, especially the bond they share. I then got pregnant at the age of 16. Lost, confused, and

sad were my emotions everyday of my life. I truly suffered in school due to me being pregnant so young, best believe my one out of one coping skill was listening to music. I remember coming home so upset listening to this song. It'll sometimes cheer me up listening to the line "everything I do is for you, you're getting so big now and you're making me so proud". As soon as I hear this I turn out to be positive and think of all the bright moments I'll share with my daughter. Also the bond we will one day share. Not only did this song sound amazing, but it sure did change my perspective on having a baby and left me with memories of my down days. I love how this song was literally my go to whenever I felt like I'd be a mother that'll struggle. I learned lots of life lessons from this song as well, meaning not everything will be perfect. The doubts I had as a mom was never visible while listening to this song.

### **Mommy Sing To Me By Jhene Aiko**

After having my baby, I was amazed of how good of a mom I turned out to be. My daughter is now one years old, one year full of laughter and great memories shared together. I remember the day of her first birthday, it had just hit 12am. I was playing the song "Mommy Sing To Me" By Jhene Aiko and I was just laying next to her crying. I always sing to her, especially this song it's one of the best feelings. Having her just look up at me smiling, sometimes she'd even be dancing. Singing this song to my daughter makes me the happiest women on earth. Excites me for the moment that she'd be able to sing back to me. I couldn't believe after all I've been through, all the doubts I've heard in my life to becoming a mom that now my daughter is really looking up to me. "Mommy sing to me" is a line in this song that reminds me of my baby Mila, it makes me feel like now that she's one, she's more attached to me and depending on me more. Another reason to why this song reminds me of my daughter is

because this song was made by Jhene and her daughter. To explicate, I usually daydream about that being Mila and I in the future. Songs like this really makes me want to have a stronger connection with her. Speaking about this song, it became a song that shows the bond my daughter and I have so I chose to have this song as my intro for my youtube channel. So not only did this song remind me of a specific moment, but it's also impacting my life in the present and future.

In conclusion, as you can see these 5 songs all hold an important and special memory in my life. Not only were these songs ridiculously old, but they then impacted my life to a point that it's not even possible to forget any of these songs. Whenever i mention any part of my journey of being pregnant at 16, I always go back and think of the specific days I listened to these songs, the moment and place. Never in my life did I think music can mean so much to me, when it comes to these songs, it's truly the top 5 songs that I'll chose to listen to rather than others. I hope these songs stay in my life forever which it actually will. I wish and hope to share these song to my daughter when she's older so she can see how it was when I shared my special moments while i was carrying her in my belly.

## REFLECTION

I'm more worried if my pieces didn't make sense. I knew what I was trying to say in all my pieces but I sometimes feel like I didn't explain it correctly.

I think I did an amazing job with connecting the song to my life story. I had a brief explanation of what the song means and how it connects to my own life story.

I mostly want help with organizing my essay together. I feel like my ideas make sense but it's all over the place.