

My Cultural Identity

ANN HUYNH



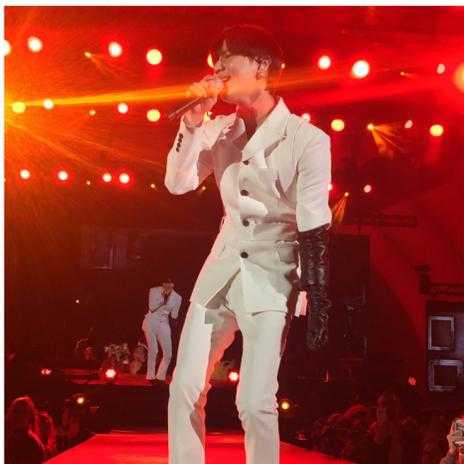
Very proud of this picture of my cat since I was able to capture the little rainbow on her cheek. Life with her feels so much lighter, I forgot that I adopted her because I was always feeling so sad. I love her and feel lucky to be able to give my love to her.



"Progress is not linear." I actually got this quote from a Twitter meme. It's a good reminder that recovery does not always look like standing at a finish line; it can also look like walking over hills, facing familiar obstacles, but always being further along than where you started.



I call these girls "my kids." I tell everyone about my kids like a proud mom, as if I actually birthed and raised them myself. They're only 2-3 years younger than me, but I've always seen them as my babies who I want to protect and cherish forever.



I took this picture from front row, only feet away from Lee Taemin himself! I feel like a big part of my identity and what makes me happy is being a kpop fan. I used to think I'd grow out of it, but it's been over 10 years and there's no shame in enjoying what makes me happy.



This is a picture of the antidepressants I started taking recently. I don't think people would expect me to need them upon meeting me, but I've been struggling with feeling depressed since I was 11. Life feels brighter now and my days feel easier.

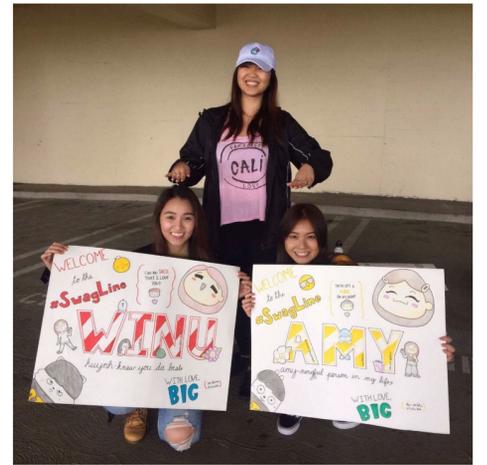
This is my cousin and I in Vietnam. Having been born and raised in America, I don't think I know as much about Vietnamese culture as I should. Regardless, I feel very tied to my identity as a Vietnamese woman and will strive to bring more tradition and influence into my life.



In the summer of 2019, my friends and I went on our first international trip together to Japan. It wasn't to visit family or any reason other than to have fun. This trip meant a lot to me because I'd wanted to travel my whole life and I finally got to do it. I want to keep having fun in life.



This picture was taken back in college when I first picked up my "littles." I'm the youngest in my family, but I finally got to be a big sister to these two. I couldn't be happier with them, and honestly, I feel like being a big sister suits me better.



I love sending my friends pictures of random things that remind me of them, or as I tell them, "look like them." My friends and other people may not see the resemblance, but I'm always so adamant that it's uncanny. The pictures are always cute things that make me smile.



I did not like Milk and Honey, at all. However, this one particular poem did resonate with me since I have a pretty strained relationship with my dad. Over time, though, I've grown to accept us as we are and I know that I'll always be his daughter.

