

Narrative Article → Sample

Adapted from Student Sample (2019).

Headline/Title *K-Pop Opened a New Chapter*

**Introduction/
Opener**

**Background
Information**

Thesis

*Statement of the event,
person, location's
significance to the
writer's life*

K-pop helped me find my passion. When I was still in elementary school, I was drawn to many different activities, art, animation, games, filming, and more. Yet, those hobbies only lasted for a short time. It wasn't until I discovered K-pop, that I would realize that my passion was right in front of me this whole time. At home, I started to watch K-pop videos on YouTube; I was so astonished by all the visuals, dancing, as well as singing. After listening to mainstream American pop for the majority of my childhood, it was a new experience. One day I tried to learn one of the dances by my favourite group, BTS. After that, I couldn't stop. I found more songs that I enjoyed and learned those dances as well. It was one of the most joyful moments in my life—learning a dance, being able to remember each step, and performing it. I saw how confident the K-pop artists looked on stage, and it inspired me to grow more confident with my dancing—eventually, moving from the safety of my bedroom to a studio and a stage. Overall, my initial interactions with K-Pop is what helped me out of my comfort zone, and initiated my passion for dance.



BTS: One of My Biggest Sources of Inspiration

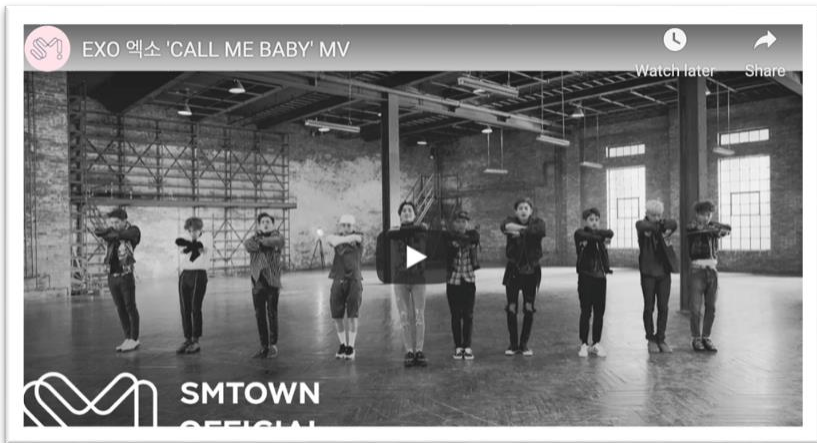
Body 1:

**Inciting
Incident**

**The beginning
of the journey/
What starts the
story?**

Now, back to the beginning. It was my best friend who introduced me to the new genre. She would tell me how awesome K-Pop was and constantly talked about the new songs she discovered. After checking it out myself, I finally understood her. I started with one of the biggest girl groups at the time, 2NE1. These girls were something I've never seen before. They had so much confidence and were so talented; I was amazed. I couldn't believe that something this vibrant existed. Later, I dug deeper into the K-pop world, and discovered a new group, EXO. I found their music video for their song "Overdose," and this was when I knew that these K-pop artists were on a whole different level. The dancing was so synchronized, while their attitude and visuals were undoubtedly captivating. When their new song "Call Me Baby," came out, I just had to learn the dance. At home, I would watch the video and

repeat it over and over again, until I knew the whole performance. I was so proud of myself and felt so accomplished to be able to complete such a feat. Within the world of dance, my curiosity increased. I began to wonder, what else I was capable, and these wonderings opened many more paths for me.



EXO's "Call Me Baby": The Song That Started It All.

Body 2:

**Rising
Action**

**What
happens as a
result of the
inciting
incident?**

**Where do
you go next?**

K-pop stuck with me through the fourth grade, all the way to the eighth, when I was entering high school. I continued to dance to 2NE1, EXO and BTS. During elementary, I would hear about the high school dance team. I would look up videos of the school's competitions online. My friends and I would talk about joining the team, but I wasn't so sure. Once I entered high school, everything was new for me. The school had its dance team auditions coming up, and I was apprehensive. Up to this point, I had only ever performed within the safety of the four walls of my bedroom with my best friends. It seemed absurd that I would ever be given a chance beyond that. I went to the audition thinking to myself, "Why would I get on the team? I'm not even experienced at all with dancing... I won't ever make it." My friends reassured me, by reminding me how much they enjoyed my K-Pop dance covers. They also told me, if I feel I have nothing to lose, then I should just have fun with it. All of that, helped to boost my confidence; I pasted on a smile and danced. A week later, I found my name on the sheet with others who had made the team. I couldn't believe it, it was my first time ever experiencing such unlikely success. I had made the team. I had done it.



Continual Inspiration

Body 3

Climax

The turning point in the action for the narrator

Later in the year, after competing in two competitions, it was time for our home competition, *Notorious*. After getting some experience and having a taste of what it feels like to dance in front of a huge crowd, I felt a little better. Yet, I knew I still needed to improve my stage presence and confidence when dancing in front of a crowd. I also knew there was no better place to do so than in a freestyle. Normally a dance competition would have a few teams perform, an intermission, more teams perform, then a freestyle dance portion. It was the individual freestyle dance that I was looking forward to the most. I wasn't sure what came over me, but once they announced the sign-up sheet for the freestyle dance, I rushed to sign up. My heart was pounding out of my chest, I couldn't believe what I was doing. As much as I wanted to back out and leave, I knew I would regret it if I didn't.

Body 4

Falling Action

What happens as a result of the decisions made in the climax?

Finally, the time came, they made the dancers line up. I was put in the middle, right in front of the bright lights. I looked out to the crowd, the bleachers were filled, due to my nerves, I looked away. I observed the other dancers up on the stage with me, they were all seniors; I was the only freshman. This made things ten times worse for my jittery hands and feet. That year, in particular, they decided to do something new. The music was a remix, and no one knew what song it was. I could tell it made the other dancers nervous too. We all were confused at the songs, no one could immediately identify them. It felt better knowing that others felt the same; at the same time, this meant that I wouldn't know the song, and I wouldn't be sure how to move. Two more dancers went, then another, it was getting closer to my turn. The MCs of the show counted down, "Five, four, three, two, one!" I jumped right into the deep end. I went up there, I could feel the adrenaline rushing through my body, and I was shocked at what I did. Throwing out moves left and right, I could hear the crowd cheering, I could see the judges were smiling. It felt like something new took over my body: self-confidence.



More of Notorious 2017.

Body 5

Resolution/Denouement

The close/conclusion of events

If you had asked me, four years ago, if I would step off a public stage to see the other dancers holding up their hands, smiling at me, giving me high fives... well, I never would have believed you. Unfortunately, I wasn't the winner of that first freestyle dance, but that didn't matter for me. I impressed myself by throwing myself into it. In the weeks, months, and years, after further performances and competitions, my friends would approach me, yelling encouragement. They kept telling me how good I was, and how they never knew I could do such a thing. Classmates of mine that I don't talk to often told me how good

they thought I was. Even after all this I still felt that I could do way better, and I was looking forward to the next competition. Four years ago, I wouldn't have ever thought about stepping beyond my four bedroom walls, or entering a competition in front of hundreds of people. Now, four years later, I am still a part of the dance team ever since then, and every year I've entered the freestyle competition, until finally this year I made all the way to the top three winners. The whole experience made more confident as a dancer, and a person.



RichCity Idol 2019

Conclusion

Restatement of Thesis

Summary of Body Paragraphs & Lessons Learned

K-pop changed my life for the better; it helped me discover my passion, come out of my comfort zone, and to be more outgoing. After unearthing this genre, my perspective of the music and dance industry expanded. I've noticed that I have different opinions about songs than my friends, as well as dancing. I analyze artistic content more in depth, and I can appreciate the little small details that no one would usually notice... unless they're passionate about it. Now I continue to look at K-pop as an inspiration. Even with no initial training or experience with dance, K-pop brought me to this point of my life. I've left the safety of my quiet bedroom, stepped beyond the small mirror on my wall, to compete and perform in front of hundreds of people.

Hashtags

#Kpop #inspiring #BTS #EXO #2NE1 #Dance

Sources: References & Images

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