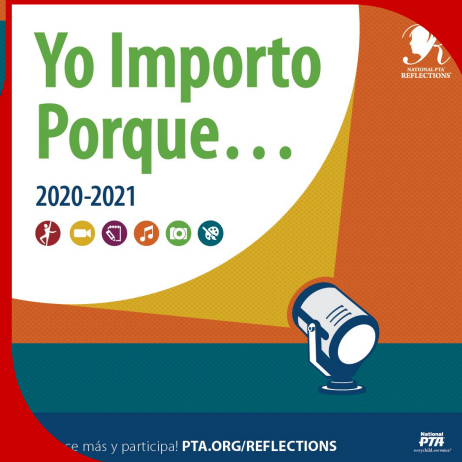


# Fullerton Union High PTSA presents...



The FUH PTSA would like to thank all of the students who participated in the 2021-2022 Reflections Art Program. We are proud of all of the entries and hope to see more of your work in the future.

Note: Some of our participants chose to have their work displayed anonymously.



**National PTA's Reflections program provides opportunities for recognition and access to the arts which boost student confidence and success in the arts and in life.**

**Each year, over 300,000 students in the Pre-K through Grade 12 create original works of art in response to a student-selected theme. This 50+ year-old program helps them explore their own thoughts, feelings and ideas, develop artistic literacy, increase confidence and find a love for learning that will help them become more successful in school and in life.**

**The theme for the 2020-2021 program year is *I Matter Because...* . Students submit their completed works of art in one or all of the available arts categories: Dance Choreography, Film Production, Literature, Music Composition, Photography, Visual Arts.**

# Dance Choreography

*Awards:*

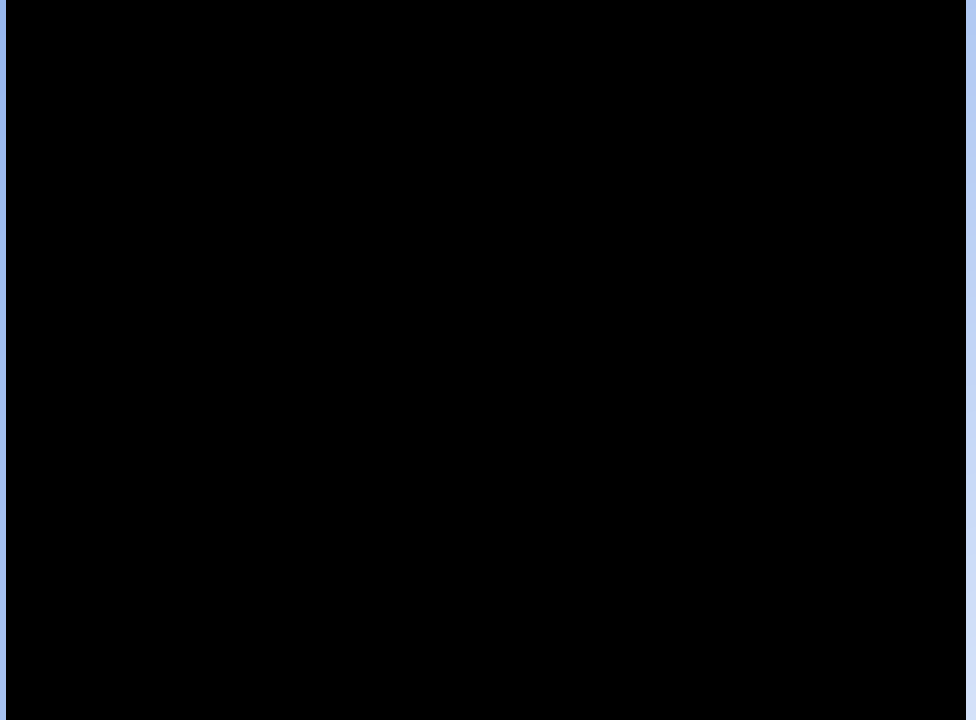
Amanda White - Award of Excellence from  
Fullerton Union High PTSA and Award of  
Excellence High School Division from  
Fullerton Council of PTAs



# *Expression*

*by Amanda White - 10th Grade*

“Dance is such an important part of my life. I think it is important to be aware of our feelings during this quarantine at home. I have not been able to go to my dance studio so I have had to dance in my living room. I think the reason I have done well in this time of self-isolation is because I have had dance to support me. Dance does not need to be in a specific location or style to allow you to express yourself. I matter because I can express myself through movement no matter the circumstances.”



# Literature

## Awards:

Grace Yo - Award of Excellence

Julia James - Award of Merit

Mackenzie Mauldin - Honorable Mention



# *My Parent's Daughter*

by Grace Yo- 9th Grade

“In this short story without a specified character, a sixteen year old girl learns about the silent hardships her stoic parents faced to provide her with a better life.”

## My Parents' Daughter

For sixteen years of my life, I felt as though my parents never really cared for me. I hardly conversed with them and if I did, it was about school, my extracurriculars, and when my next big test is.

One day, my teacher decided it was time for a project and while I complained and groaned, I knew I would have to do well to maintain an A. So I sat down with my parents and decided to ask them questions about their stories. The project was meant for us to find out more about our parents and their lives.

“Mama, Papa, can I ask you some questions?” I asked, already sitting down with a notebook and pen. They nodded and didn't say a word. I gulped down the ball that was forming at the back of my throat. After all, I never was close with my parents.

“Okay uhm, well, what was it like? Living in Korea?” At this, my Mama and Papa paused whatever it was that they were doing and turned to look at me.

“Korea? No good. Our family rich, but no freedom.” My mother spat out her broken English like it was battery acid. Her face was all screwed up and she had a look of disgust painted on it. Papa went back to reading the news on his phone, mumbling under his breath with the same look.

“Halmeoni didn't like your Papa. Kicked me out and left me alone. Had to work very, very hard as waitress to save. Hard, hard work.” Mama explained how my grandma hated Papa and wanted nothing to do with him.

“Oh. Uhm, did you come together? And was it hard?” I asked, writing down the notes. I never even knew Halmeoni was alive. I've never been to Korea.

# *My Parent's Daughter*

## *continued*

“Yes. Very hard to study and get green card, too. So long time without job and so little money. Halmeoni didn't give any money. Had you as baby when we poor.” I lowered my pen. I never remembered us living poorly. I mean, we weren't rich, but I always had toys to play with and food to eat. I got new clothes when I wanted a change.

“Hard to care for baby, but we wanted good life for you. Papa and I worked very, very hard. We wanted to treat you better than Halmeoni treated us. So I worked as waitress at two restaurant and Papa work as janitor. We save lots and buy home and raise you right.”

I was stunned. That my refined mother, who as far as I had known, never worked a day in her life, worked as a waitress. Papa, who I thought always worked at his nine to five, a janitor? I didn't know this, I never thought to ask. The only thing my parents ever talked to me about was school and what I wanted for dinner.

Papa spoke for the first time.

“Hard... but worth it for my daughter.” I didn't know what to do. I don't think I've ever received a kiss from my parents in years. They hardly ever hugged me. My grades defined me in their eyes. So hearing how hard they worked for *me*, it was shocking.

I wrote the last of my bullet points and stood up abruptly.

“Thank you for answering my questions.” I walked away from the table and just before I left the room, I turned.

“Thank you, Mama, Papa.” I speed-walked to my room, embarrassed by what I just said.

“Thank you”, I whispered one more time. This time, with a smile on my face. This time, I smile knowing to my parents, I matter. Not my grades, or my tests, but me. I smile knowing that *I matter*.



# *You are Me*

by Julia James- 9th Grade

“My poem, “You are Me,” is a note-to-self poem. It is a person talking to themselves and reminding themselves about how worthy and wonderful they are. It is a reminder that they are valued, and loved, which is why they matter.”

## **You are Me**

**You are the reason  
I am still breathing  
I wake up smiling  
For you**

**You are the reason  
I keep on trying  
Never giving up  
Or giving in**

**You are life  
You are love  
You are joy  
You are hope**

**You are priceless for who you are  
You are precious for what you can do  
You are paramount for who you will become  
You matter to me**

**Embrace the beauty  
Embrace the hardship  
Embrace the triumphs  
Embrace the defeats**

**Because  
You are perfection  
You are my reason  
You matter to me**

**For  
You are me  
And I am you  
I am nothing without you**

**Who am I?  
I am you.  
I love you.  
And you matter to me.**



# *Why I Matter...*

by Mackenzie Mauldin - 9th Grade

“In the poem, I explain my  
self worth and why I matter.”

## Why I matter...

I matter to my family  
I matter to my friends  
I matter to everybody  
But what's important in the end?

I don't matter because of my social status.  
I don't matter because I'm straight.  
I don't matter because of my economic status.  
I matter because of my personality, that's great.

I don't matter because of my followers.  
I don't matter because I'm cool.  
I don't matter because I'm popular.  
I matter because of my authentic soul.

I don't matter because I'm white  
I don't matter because I'm a girl  
I don't matter because I'm gifted  
I matter because I'm the only me in the world.

So what's important in the end?  
Not that I matter to my family  
Not that I matter to my friends  
Not that I matter to anybody  
But that I know my self worth  
And I know that I'm the world's only Mackenzie Lynn

## Why I Matter

### *Why I Matter*

by Christian Do - 9th Grade

“My work relates to the theme because it explains why I matter. It explains the theme because it says we matter because we have a voice and have the right for it to be heard.”

I matter because I never forget that I have a voice and I have a right to be heard. I have the right for an opinion and for it to be heard. My opinion would be how overpopulation is hurting the world because we are using more resources like gasolines which will result in climate change. Climate change is a problem in the world as many animals are going extinct to it. For example polar bears are dying due to the ice melting in antarctica.

One reason it will affect us is by 2050, climate change will force 50 to 700 million people to emigrate. And will cause a rapid loss of forests and other ecosystems is starting to impact ecosystem-dependent industries such as agriculture, tourism, drinking water and pharmaceuticals. This is a very big problem as this is a big chunk of the population. As I said there are many people who also believe in this and why overpopulation and climate change is bad. This is why people are starting an act to ban fossil fuels.

I will not be afraid to say what I believe in and to speak about what I think is right and what I think is wrong. No matter if someone believes what I say or not. My voice matters like every other person's voice matters. Just like Martin Luther King he did not let anyone else tell him wrong. I matter because I have a voice that will allow myself to be heard, and will not stop allowing myself to be heard.

# *My Unique Cultural Landscape*

by Christian Lawson - 9th Grade

“My poem is related to the ‘I matter...’ theme because it describes my unique culture background, and I further describe how these elements of my past influence me, my society, and my landscape around me today.”

## **My Unique Cultural Landscape**

I matter because of geography

The cultural landscape

That you and I shape

Is impacted greatly

By my history lately

The path my family travels

And our many great battles

Help create my culture

And our agriculture

The places of my origins

Differ from Americans

And these unique traits

Which in return advocates

My own personality

And effect on society

I matter because of geography

## *The Future Me*

Anonymous - 10th Grade

“It’s a reflection of myself  
and how I became to be me.”

## “The Future Me”

I matter because I’m the future for everyone to see.  
I matter because I work hard until I reach my goal. I  
matter because people support me in the most  
important moments in my life. I matter because my  
next generation will carry on my legacy. Everyone  
helps me on the things that matter the most to me  
and I always help them in their moments. I know  
that kindness can be returned as a thanks to the  
people who helped me. I matter because...I know  
everyone’s going to do it,I promise.

# ***Photography***

Awards:

Elizabeth Timmerman - **Award of Excellence**  
from Fullerton Union High PTSA and **Award**  
**of Excellence** High School Division from  
Fullerton Council of PTAs

Brandon Kim - Award of Merit

Amanda Chin - Honorable Mention





# ***Reaching***

***by Elizabeth Timmerman - 9th Grade***

“Reaching relates to the theme of ‘I Matter Because’ I have the choice to make a difference in this world by making our world thrive or die. I have the choice to build the environment to how I want it to be, or I can leave it how it is.”



# ***Both In and Out : How the Earth gives, and we give back.***

***by Brandon Kim - 10th Grade***

“Nature gives me everything. I have received it with no cost. I am also a part of nature. If our nature goes away, I would not exist. We all are important beings, so we must never forget to thank our nature. I try to live in harmony with nature.”





# ***An Effect on the World***

***by Amanda Chin- 9th Grade***

“I matter because what I do in California can affect the entire world. An example of one of these effects is the prevention of global warming. If I recycle and reduce my carbon footprint, I am helping the entire world.”



# Visual Arts

## Awards:

Larissa Bromley - Award of Excellence from Fullerton Union High PTSA and Award of Excellence High School Division from Fullerton Council of PTAs

Cardin Pham - Award of Merit



# Game of Vengeance

by Larissa Bromley - 10th Grade

"Society's brutal. People are doing whatever they want to others and their property, like royalty. (Reason I used a queen card in my art). In my piece you can see the same girl killing what looks like herself, representing how people are constantly physically and emotionally hurting others, even though we are all people. No matter your race or job, we are all people and matter. It's two sided representing different perspectives. Although some views look different, there's always ones that'll connect us. How we act and treat others can change lives and the world."





# *I Matter Because* by Cardin Pham - 9th Grade

“By drawing the Fullerton Union High School, it relates to the “I matter because...” theme because school is a major part of my life. School matters a lot to me where I rely on it to help and improve my future.

Because of Fullerton Union High school, I have a chance to pursue my dream career. I matter because of school.”



# *Thank You*

We sincerely hope you come back next year  
ready to give it your all for the PTA Reflections Art Program!  
The theme for 2021-2022 is: I Can Change the World By...

