

Crystal Huang

Ted Talk - How My Siblings Have Shaped Me

I want you guys to think about someone who has shaped your life, either it be a friend, family, or someone you look up to. Today I will be talking about how my siblings, mostly my sister, has helped shaped me to be the person I am today. I am the middle child of three, I have one older sister who is 18 years old and a younger brother who is 15 years old.

One way that my sister has shaped me is in the way I dress. We have very similar taste because she is the one who influenced me but I would say she likes to dress up more than me. We have countless pieces of clothing that we have the same of. And you guys may think that this just means that we share clothes but we actually don't, we actually each have a piece of the same clothing. When I was a middle schooler, I would always follow my sister around and when we went shopping and I would always choose the same things as her because I never knew what I wanted. Because I never knew what I wanted, I would always copy her and at one point I realized that she probably found it annoying how I always bought the same things as her so I tried finding things that were different and tried to stray away from what she liked. While trying to do this, I found out that I liked dressing in more plain clothing compared to my sister who likes to dress up more. Although we still end up buying some of the same things today, we do it less often than before.

In addition to showing me what to wear, my sister was also the one who introduced me to k-pop. I was in elementary school when I first learned about it and although I knew it existed, I never really got into it until middle school, where I started liking it more and more. I was able to make friends through the similar interest of k-pop and also introduced it to those who didn't know about it. My sister often introduces me to new groups and encourages me to get to know underrated groups as well. With the help of my sister, I am also able to go to many concerts these past few years and meet all the other k-pop fans who have the same interest as me. By going to concerts it has also made me realize that there is a great variety of different people who like k-pop. Everybody has those "what if" questions about how different our lives would be if something were to not exist or happen and I have a lot around the topic of k-pop. Some examples are, if I never knew k-pop, would I be the same person I am today and if not what would be different? Another question is would I have met or became friends with the people that I am friends with today? And if I was never introduced to k-pop by my sister, would I have been exposed to it either way? And if I were to not like k-pop, what would I like instead and what will I be spending my time doing? In addition to k-pop she also got me into k-drama which has helped encourage me to learn more about different cultures and languages.

Another way my sister has shaped me is through school. Although I don't think she has ever explicitly told me that I had to do well in school, I am encouraged to do well because she does well in school. Because she is older than me, I naturally look up to her and want to be and do the same things as her. Everybody values something and I feel that I value school because of my sister. If it were not for her, I wouldn't care as much for school as I do right now. And I also feel that if she didn't value school, I wouldn't value school as much as I do today. She is my motivation because I feel that I have to do well just like she has. She is also the one who I have always turned to when I have trouble and she is always willing to help me which has made it easier for me a lot of the time. I also admire her for always being able to solve her own problems without the help of others, unlike me, which has also made me want to try to stop relying on her for every little problem I have.

In contrast to school, one way that my brother has shaped me is through games. One game that he plays that I'm interested in is a game called CS:GO, but I am not really good at it. Between my siblings, the one who enjoys playing games the most is my brother and while growing up, he has always introduced me to the games that he played. Although I may have never been good at any of the games that we played, I still enjoyed playing it. Because my sister often views games as a waste of time, games has always been a way for me to bond with my brother. Although I don't play games anymore because I am afraid of getting too addicted and end up spending too much time on them, I still find them interesting and at times I will still have the urge to play it as well. With the help of my brother, I also learned to admire those who are good at playing games such as streamers because I was able to learn that they devote a lot of time to those games to get so good.

Although as siblings, we always bicker and annoy each other, I admire both my sister and brother in many different ways. Because of the countless ways that my siblings have shaped me to be a person that dresses in a simple way, likes k-pop, tries in school, and likes games, I question if there are any part of me that was not created based off of others. Because of all of these, I feel that I lack originality but I realized that it is ok to be influenced by others and have the same interests as them and that it is fine. I guess my message is that you should appreciate everyone around you because they will all end up influencing you, a lot or a little, to become the person you are today with the knowledge that you have today.