La Misma Canción is a personal reflection that was inspired by the environment that we all live in. The author, Hector, is only a student in middle school. Already so much hate, crime, and racism occurs and is still very much relevant. Why is this occurring in the year 2018? Everyone needs to vent and put his or her thoughts on paper to see more clearly. These are the thoughts and short wisdom of Hector that have developed over his 13 years of life.

Tupac once said, “We all bleed thru similar veins,” and it’s true. We all walk on the same land, we all inhale the same air, and we all come from similar backgrounds. The people in America are diverse and yet the same; while many are born and raised here, others come from the Philippines, China, Guatemala, El Salvador, Mexico, Honduras, and Jamaica, and some were here long before our time and continue to be. In my grandmother’s religion it is believed that we all descend from two individuals, Adam and Eve. If this theory is true and one chooses to follow such a religion, then this means we are connected. Believing that we all descend from the same beginnings, my grandmother also said, “Todos baillamos la misma canción,” which means that everyone dances to the same song. When I first heard this quote I didn’t really know what my grandmother meant. Over the years it has shown me that we all have problems and while we are not the same, we are all similar to each other.

My grandmother’s quote stands out to me in many ways. Imagine there are two young males: one over here in Los Angeles, and one over in New York. They both are raised in a similar situation, similar socioeconomic background, and face challenges daily. It can be said that both of these boys dance to the same song. Now let’s take another child from Los Angeles who is raised with more advantages; while this child may not have the need to wonder where his next meal will come from, he too still dances to the same song. It’s not only individuals from New York or Los Angeles—this occurs around the world. Regardless of the beats we like or language in which the song is sung, the song is our song of life. The song of life beats similar
for every generation and race. Everybody has issues, whether they are poverty, friendship, hardship, success, or how each of our stories began. So how come we cannot accept each other’s benefits and limitations? How come we can’t love one another? Why is there so much hate? Hate against races, genders, sexual orientations, and beliefs.

A baby is born into this life happy and pure. Throughout the years change happens, sometimes for the better and sometimes for the worse. I’ve seen parents tell their children that being part of the LGBTQ community is wrong, that being Catholic or Christian is the wrong belief, that voting for a woman is wrong, that girls can’t be construction workers, that stereotyping people based on what they eat is acceptable. I’ve also heard people say, you must accept everyone as a human being, they have living souls and feelings just like me and you. I have heard people say, believe in peace and follow your heart; don’t be the cause of trouble, stop it or prevent it. Every day we are taught, through social media and news, to hate, to love, to destroy, to create, to judge, and to feel.

We can change the negative patterns of hate, crime, and war by teaching future generations the way of love and open mindedness. I am the future for my ancestors. Those who come after me will carry their own legacies; they will become my future. I learn from my mistakes that I make and the mistakes made by those before me. The next generation in my family will also learn from my mistakes. They will continue to improve on what I have learned and what they will experience. There is more peace and understanding when we learn to love and accept ourselves and others. The Chinese philosopher Zou Yan believed that health and success are based on the balance of life, which is where the Yin-Yang symbol originated. As a society we can achieve this balance by removing our stigmas and always remembering that “todos baillamos la misma canción.”

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