

Ashley Maldonado

Professional Identity

Personal Mission Statement

As a multifaceted writer interested in many fields that the English degree opens doors for, I aim to expand Latinx culture and representation in the world of pop culture and media. My passion for the art of storytelling reaches beyond many genres and my abilities will produce and deliver heartfelt stories that will encourage others similar to my background to see themselves in the forefront of the media world.

Professional Identity Statement

I never imagined that my personal interests could meet my abilities and become one as my career; that is, until I met the English degree. I have always been an avid advocate for various forms of media, such as television/film, music, books, and more. Despite my strong interests as a child, I was not initially driven to chase a career of that measure due to my identity as a minority. As an adult, however, I have been a witness to the grave changes and growth in the representation of minority groups occurring in the media industry. Latinx representation in the media has been seen through films, from animation studios like Disney's *Encanto*, to actors like Oscar Isaac and Pedro Pascal becoming leading protagonists in blockbuster films and television. I want to contribute to that grandeur. I believe it is not only crucial to tell the stories of Hispanic experiences for minority representation, but also to recognize Hispanic identities as talented artists contributing to a new diversified media.

The versatility in my writing spans across many genres. This stronghold transforms me into a vessel that can serve many forms of writing both creatively and professionally in the

workforce. As a poet, my work aims at telling lived experiences living with mental illnesses such as anxiety, depression, and ADHD. My non-fiction writing focuses on emphasizing my identity as a first-generation Latina in America and as a professional in the writing field. My professional writing spans from social media and technology to highlighting pop culture events and news. As an English educator, my goal is to provide resources for the Latinx community youth and Second-Language learners through teaching both English literature and English as a language.

Within the realm of writing, there is an incessant nature of critical thinking, creativity, and genuinity which persists. My dependability, consistency, empathy, and detail-oriented mindset allows me to freely visualize a focus on prioritizing Latinx visibility and mental health advocacy while simultaneously defying systematic norms in media. My fluidity as a writer equips me with the knowledge and expertise to research patterns in social media and media culture, analyze fast-paced trends, and produce work in media companies and entertainment spaces professionally. As a visual artist, my art direction and introspection directly intersects my writing with perceptible media, such as short films, photography, aesthetics, and graphic design. These skills further emphasize the work I am capable of manufacturing in a wide scope of fields.

Whether it is reporting on real-life stories as a journalist, helping students as an educator, or working in production behind entertainment, my ambitions in writing can deliver and cater to many workforces seeking a personable and open-minded candidate. My identity as a first-generation Latina woman directly shapes and motivates my efforts to work in the world of media and entertainment. My presence in this particular world will help others sharing similar minority backgrounds and mental health struggles. Aside from continuously grounding my professional identity to my cultural identity, I also aim for longevity through the publication of my own work, such as a poetry book and a memoir. As a future English graduate transitioning

into my professional career, I am open-minded in becoming a part of a strong company and/or organization that allows me to collaborate creatively in the arts, from written to visual methods while centralizing my beliefs in expanding positions for the often unheard and marginalized.