

# Weekly Report

This week was the first week with my second host sister, Julia.

In Santa Sabina, students have one assessment for each subject, every term. They get most of their grades by doing assessments and I decided to go through assessments as well in order to improve my skills.

## Religion Assessment

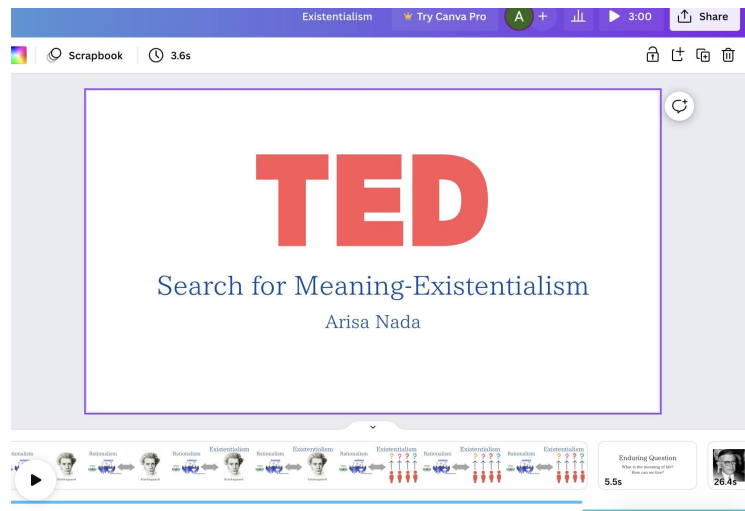
My first assessment was religion. It was due this week so I was having a hard time completing it for the past few days. The theme of the assessment was “The Search for Meaning in Life”. We made a 3 minute video Ted Talk, explaining different religions and philosophies and what they think about the meaning of life.

I chose existentialism, a type of philosophy for my video. At first, I was just looking for resources in Japanese and I thought that I would be able to easily understand. I searched on YouTube and found several videos about different philosophers, history of philosophy, and an overview of how they think. However, I couldn't find videos or resources that explain in-depth information, such as how philosophy affects people's thoughts. I found that the video I saw was all forecasting on memorizing important phrases and passing exams. I decided to search more in English and looked for them. At last, I managed to find a video and article explaining the effects of existentialism.

I remember the English teacher's speech at the opening ceremony of this year. She said that English will broaden our world view. Now, I realized that firsthand. English has broadened my worldview.

Making a script and recording was difficult for me, but I enjoyed it. I also enjoyed the conversation with my friends about the assessment. I felt like I'm having the same hard work and feelings as students in Australia.

While I was doing my assessment, my friend in year 10, who did the same assessment helped me by teaching me which word they use when they make presentations. I'm not good at asking friends to help me and I felt like asking too much help while doing assessments is not good and not fair. However, her words were so kind that she blew my nervous feelings away. She also taught me the importance of relying on others when I need help. At the same time, I thought I want to be like her, who can help people naturally.

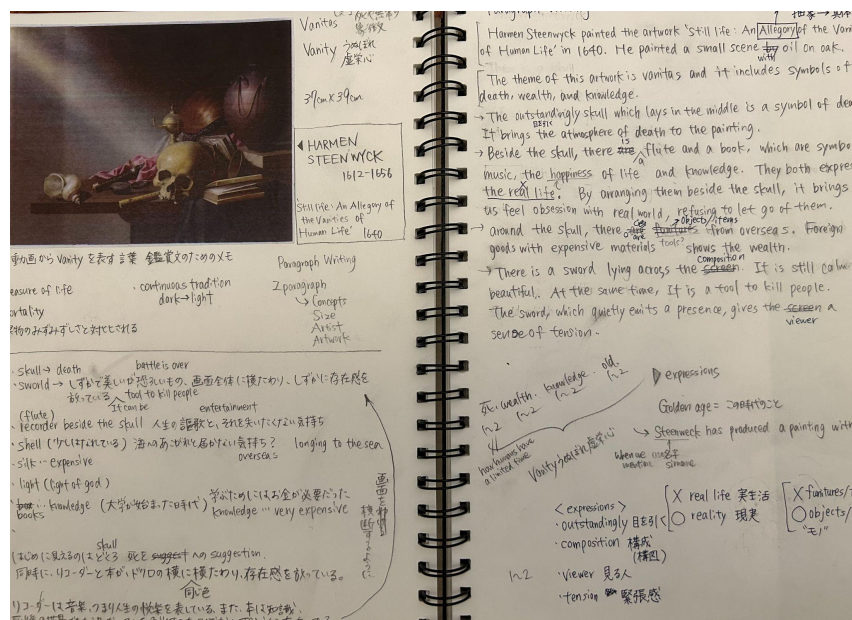


## Visual Arts

Visual Arts classes are my favorite. This week, we learned how to write a paragraph on artworks. I was so glad that I could learn various expressions to describe the situation of artworks effectively.

I wanted to improve my skill on writing paragraphs, so I asked my teacher to check my writing and give me feedback. It took a little courage, but thankfully, she gladly agreed and gave me comments. I was glad to be able to take art classes and have a great teacher. I'd like to learn more about art theories.

I also enjoy practical lessons, too. We are going to have an assessment of drawing still-life and we are practicing by using charcoal, pencil, pen and paints. During the last lesson, we went outside to sketch objects to improve our observational skills. I felt very new, and at the same time, I learned that there are discoveries that I can earn by changing perspectives in daily life.



## History Excursion

This Wednesday, the history class which my host sister is taking had an excursion to the city and the Sydney Jewish Museum. I'm not in 10th grade, but thanks to the work of my friends and teachers, they allowed me to go with them.

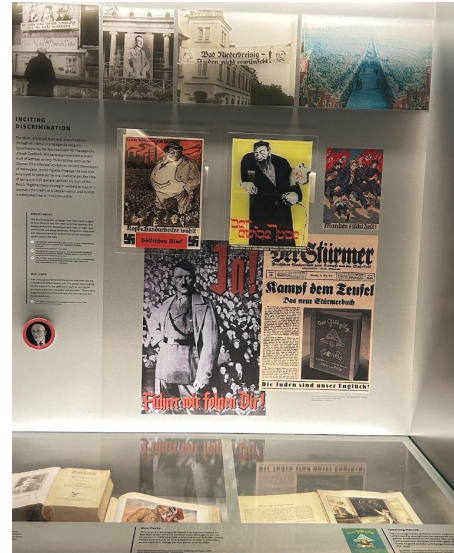
In the morning, we went around the city and learned about the history of the city. After eating lunch in the park, we visited the museum and learned about Jewish culture and holocaust. We listened to the explanations by the navigator and looked around the museum.



When we were at the section which has a map showing the locations and extent of the persecution of the Jews, she kept telling us that every single person who had been killed in genocide had their family, friends, life and identity. Her words remain in my heart. When I look at some data, I tend to just look at the number to compare, but her words remind me to think carefully about the background and people who were there.

I also saw propagandas which was used to control people by nazi-germany. Visual expression has the power to move our feelings. I learned what will happen if it goes the wrong way. I felt the responsibility of conveying information.

At the last part of our excursion, we had the opportunity to listen to the story of holocaust from a survivor. The speaker, Ms.Lily, was 17 years old when it happened, just like us. When she was telling us that she was forced to walk 25 kilometers each day to the ghetto and the suffering and fear there, her eyes kept my eyes. Her eyes were calm, kind and strong. I can't forget her eyes. And I won't forget the story.



The museum has a name “Where History has a Voice”. I am glad to hear the voice of history there. At the end of her story, she left us a message. She said, “Study, Study, Study, and Study. They can take house, money, and everything you have from you, but they can't take what you have in your head.” I felt that to study is not like to earn money and get something to live. I felt that studying itself makes us. Her story not only let me know about the holocaust, but also gave me an opportunity to think about what makes me. I thought I want to be a person who values wisdom to seek the truth, not the visible things.

## Weekend

I spent the weekend with Julia. We went shopping together and hung around on Saturday. The city we went to was Burwood and it has Chinatown. I enjoyed visiting there and knew about cross-cultural products.

Julia loves Japanese anime and manga culture and taught me a lot about them. I realized that anime and manga culture plays an important role in representing Japanese culture overseas. I drew pictures of anime characters and played theme



songs on the piano which she requested. I was glad that she enjoyed them. Manga and Anime culture was much more important than I thought so far.

