

Q. Can you introduce yourself and tell us a little about who you are?

A: I'm a high school student from New Orleans, and I'm interested in both science and writing. A lot of my work explores the tension between identity, expectation, and choice, especially as someone growing up in an immigrant family.

Q. Can you tell us about the idea behind your work?

A: The piece explores how systems, whether social, economic, or familial, can shape a person's sense of control. I wanted to show how something that feels like a simulation or structure can still have very real emotional consequences.

Q. What was your creative process like?

A: It started with a concept or image, and then I built around it. I tend to revise a lot, cutting, rearranging, and questioning whether each line actually earns its place.

Q. What do you hope resonates with people when they experience your work?

A: I hope people feel a sense of recognition, that even if their experiences are different, the emotions are familiar in some way.

Q. Was the piece you submitted something you're used to writing, or did you try something new?

A: It's close to the style I usually write in, but I pushed myself to be more intentional with structure and meaning, rather than just focusing on language.