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# Passion: The Flavor of Life

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## Passion: The Flavor of Life

I believe in passion. I believe passion is the driving force that defines who we are and how we live our lives. Without passion, life has no flavor; it's what makes life worth living.

When I entered middle school I was told that as part of the curriculum we were required to enroll in a music course. I had never been very musically inclined as a child. I couldn't sing in key, I couldn't clap a rhythm, and I could care less what some crazy composer did 300 years ago. But since it was required I decided to learn to play the saxophone. I found this choice to be one of the best choices I have ever made. Throughout my 7 years learning the instrument, I discovered something that I had never felt before; I felt passion in the music I played. I could feel the passion put into the music by the composer and I could feel the passion coming from me as I turned a jumble of black and white marks into music. As I progressed into high school I found a new type of music: jazz. As I played jazz I learned to improvise and put a little piece of myself into the music. It was through learning to play the saxophone that I discovered how important passion is in music and in everyday life.

Ever since learning to play the saxophone, I have tried to apply what I learned about passion to my life. I realized that if I don't completely believe in what I am doing, or if I don't put out my best, I leave out an important part of life. This missing piece is passion. Now it may not always be the easiest to show passion, but that's because I'm human and tend to find the easiest way out. Whether I'm deciding what classes to take in college, or going to church, I try to follow that feeling of passion. I find what I know I strongly believe in because I know those are the things that I want to define me. Passion is what makes me strive to be better, and I know it is what has led many great people before me.

If you look at the accomplishments of many of this world's great leaders there is one common thread. They all have feel passion for what they do. Do you think that people like Gandhi, Martin Luther King Jr., Teddy Roosevelt, Amelia Earnhardt, Ronald Reagan, and George Washington weren't passionate people? They felt passion, and they recognized its importance in the definition of who they were. It is through their passion that they gave life meaning, and it is through the passion I feel that I give my life meaning. I believe in passion, and its unique ability to define people and the lives they live.