

This story is about my experience with the football community and how I became apart of it. I am not a big sports fan. I watch football sometimes with my dad but that's about it. That is why I was surprised when my dad asked me to come to a football game with him. It was a big Eagles versus Cowboys game and I knew he wanted me to come to spend quality time together so I said yes. Now my dad loves sports, you could definitely call him a fanatic. He watches every sixers game, flyers game, and Phillies game. But football is his absolute favorite. He owns eagles jerseys, flags, and bobbleheads.

Now there are a lot of hardcore sports fans. People that will literally fight you for wearing another football team's merchandise. Of course, there are a lot of regular people that just chill and watch sports, but we're focusing on the extremists right now. Do you remember what happened the night the Eagles won their first Superbowl back in 2018? Cars were flipped and burned, places were vandalized, and a bunch of people climbed lamp posts... All of this to say, the football community can be very volatile.

We get to the game and everything is going fine until the cowboys enter the field. Then half of the crowd erupts into boos. The other half cheers for the cowboys and chants the go cowboys chant. It was like a war of voices. But there was a smile on everyone's face, everyone was having fun cheering for the team and booing the opposition. That's when I realized why people can be so interested in sports. You know you are not out there on the field but you feel apart of it anyway. The eagles represent you and when they win you win. To be honest, I started to enjoy the game. It felt like I was on a big team that all wanted the same thing. That was the day my dad and I started to bond over football. I am still not a fanatic like him, but today I would say football is an important part of my identity.

Artist's Statement: At first I had no idea what to write about, I didn't think I had a story about identity. Then I started to think about what communities I belonged to and the story of how I began to get into football stuck out to me. A story telling technique I used from born a crime is how Trevor gives a lot of background information when he tells us a story. An example of this is the first chapter, the chapter is about Trevor's Mother throwing him out of a moving bus. But Trevor gives background information on his mother's devotion to the church, how the minibusses are connected to organized crime, and why they had to resort to catching the minibusses. My evidence is on page one in the first paragraph, Trevor writes "I was nine years old when my mother threw me out of a moving car. It happened on a Sunday. I know it was on a Sunday because we were coming home from church, and every Sunday in my childhood meant church. We never missed church. My mother was—and still is—a deeply religious woman." This quote establishes the chapter's main idea of getting thrown out of a bus but also established background information like where they were going and why.

I know there are a lot of people who are not familiar with the football culture that is why I devoted a chapter to just explaining how football fans act. This vignette speaks about how football became apart of my identity, our guiding question was "Tell a story about a personal experience about your own sense of identity/belonging in a culture" I believe this describes my story perfectly