

Camila Bes

Youtuber/high school student

March 12, 2019 -- Camila's house

0:00

Lilia: And just kind of try to restate, like, the question that I'm saying like if I'm saying what's your name oh my name is...

Camila: Oh okay okay, got it.

0:09

Lilia: Okay. Who are you and what is Youtube to you?

Camila: I am Camila Bes. Um Youtube means a distraction to me. It's where I go to put my creativity in and it's where I spend most of my time.

Lilia: Okay, and try to just like look at me and not the camera.

Camila: Yeah, sorry.

Lilia: Let's try that one more time.

Camila: Okay, okay got it.

0:33

Lilia: That was like my bad. Um so, who are you and what is Youtube to you?

Camila: I am Camila Bes. Youtube is a distraction for me and it's a way for me to communicate with the outside world.

0:45

Lilia: Okay. Who or what got you into making Youtube videos?

Camila: Um, I watched a lot of Youtubers when I was like in middle school. I watched Bethany Mota and I loved her and I really wanted to be like her, kind of. So I made videos and then I decided to post them, but that was only once I learned how to edit. So I filmed a lot and then I learned how to edit and eventually, maybe like in high school, I started making them public.

1:12

Lilia: Yeah, so about when, what age did you start making Youtube videos, or like not even posting them but just making them?

Camila: Okay, um so I was in seventh grade so I'm guessing like twelve, I think I was twelve, when I started recording and editing and I was probably fourteen, fifteen when I started uploading.

1:34

Lilia: What is normally your inspiration for coming up with a Youtube video idea?

Camila: Um usually what people ask me to make. Um I like asking people to request videos and I give them shoutouts in my videos and I think that works the best because then they get something, I get something and I run out of ideas really fast so a lot of the time if I see a video that I really like then I want to recreate it, put my own twist into it, yeah.

2:01

Lilia: Uh, what are some struggles you go through while making a video?

Camila: Like when I'm filming?

Lilia: Yeah.

Camila: Um, sometimes the lighting is really difficult. I don't want like I don't feel like filming really early but then it gets late and it's like too dark. Um, other than that it's just like I don't, oh, uploading is so difficult because sometimes if the wifi sucks it'll take forever and yeah, that's probably the worst part.

2:29

Lilia: Uh, where do you usually film?

Camila: I usually film in my bedroom. Um I have a big window so I sit right in front of it. I love natural lighting so wherever I can get the best lighting, that's where I film.

2:41

Lilia: When did your passion for Youtube begin?

Camila: Um, well actually, I moved here six years ago. So I learned most of my English watching Youtube videos and I was obsessed with it. Um, so it was probably then when I was younger and I really like looked up to Americans and the way they spoke and the things they did and I watched all that on Youtube.

3:05

Lilia: So where are you originally from?

Camila: Um I was born in Israel. Um my parents are from Argentina and Chile so I lived a year in Chile and then I moved here.

Lilia: Oh that's so cool.

Camila: Yeah.

3:19

Lilia: Um, how many subscribers do you have?

Camila: I have I think 3,700 subscribers, something around that.

3:27

Lilia: And about how long did that take for you to like achieve or gain?

Camila: That took me, I'm going to say, 3 years. Um mostly because when I first started, I would hide my channel. I didn't want anyone to know about it and when people would ask me about it, I would deny it. It was more for me to put videos out there to people that I didn't know.

Lilia: Yeah.

Camila: Yeah.

3:51

Lilia: Uh how do people at school treat you because you do Youtube? Is it any different or the same from when you didn't do Youtube or do they think that it's cool, stupid, like what do they think about it?

Camila: Well um, I remember freshman year when I first started meeting people at high school that was like the only thing they really knew about me. I don't know how people found out but they did and like some people made fun of it. I-never to my face but I heard like people talked badly about it and honestly I never really cared because if it was something they didn't want to say to me just to their friends and it was obvious like it's just something like their issue and it doesn't have a lot to do with me. But um my friends think it's pretty cool. I have a few friends that don't really want to be on camera, other friends that love being on camera. Um I have friends that are like "oh we should do this, oh you should vlog it" like so most people are really really supportive of Youtube but I haven't seen a difference of like the friends I make because I'm the same person on camera off camera. Yeah.

4:50

Lilia: Um how do your parents or family feel about you having a Youtube channel?

Camila: Um, I don't really think they care that much. My mom just thinks it's you know whatever. My dad is in like more of the tech world so he understands like the potential it has and he's more interested in like the business-y side and really loved looking at cameras with me when I was trying to find like a camera and equipment and all that so he's really supportive. Um, they don't really understand like how long it takes to like edit and film and like all of that but they are supportive. My mom is very like her

whole side of the family is like artistic so they always knew like I was going to do something that's like creative and I love DIYs and that's what my channel first started as like DIYs because I love that. Yeah.

5:40

Lilia: Yeah that's really cool. Um, how many views approximately do you get per video?

Camila: I think about, it really um changes because I have a lot of giveaways so when I have those giveaways I have a lot of views and then when I don't, it's like been a while, I don't. But I think on average on a regular video, no giveaways nothing, it's like 200 views. Yeah.

6:02

Lilia: Um, have you always had a passion for film or something of that sort that influenced why you began Youtube?

Camila: No, not at all. I didn't know about, I never like took pictures like that or videos or anything. My dad always followed me around like when I was a kid, recording with those old cameras and I loved watching back on it and so I think maybe like when vlogs started happening I'm like I need to hop on that because that would be amazing. I could look back, because my dad doesn't record me anymore obviously so I can record myself.

6:35

Lilia: Yeah um, did it take you awhile to get comfortable being in front of a camera or was it natural?

Camila: It was pretty natural, I have to be honest. I wanted to be an actress when I was younger, so for me it was more acting but sometimes I feel like a little more shy if I'm not like, if I don't know what I'm talking about really but if it's like a planned out video and it's something that I'm passionate about, I can-I love being in front of cameras.

7:00

Lilia: Are you planning to do Youtube for a while or is it temporary?

Camila: Um I'm not sure. I'm planning to do it for a while because I love it but I don't really see it as like my main job. I want to study different things, I want to do a bunch of different things but I always see myself like coming back to Youtube and doing that kind of like on the side of everything else.

7:22

Lilia: Yeah uh, why do you use Youtube? Do you see it as a career choice or more of a hobby? Basically the same question.

Camila: Yeah, I see it more as a hobby but obviously like I can eventually like make it my career and like it's peoples' careers and they make a lot of money off of it so.

7:38

Lilia: Have you ever felt a moment where you wanted to quit and give up on Youtube?

Camila: Yeah. Um, a lot because it's-when you're not big, it's like what's the point of it and there's some times where you get like too stuck on like Youtube and like the famous people and you don't realize that like, you know not everyone gets there and that's not the reason why you're doing things so like. Last year when there was just like a lot of school, finals, all of that, I was like honestly like I shouldn't do this anymore. This is pointless, I'm not going to get anything from it like I should just use more time for school, find something else but of course I'll always go back to Youtube because it's a hobby, it's like a yeah, it's amazing.

8:17

Lilia: Have you ever felt a moment-oh wait sorry that was a repeat, um. Is anyone in the Youtube community now an inspiration to you?

Camila: Um, a lot of people, I would say almost anyone that like you can really tell put a lot of work into their videos. Obviously everyone knows James Charles and you know, I'm not that much like of a beauty guru and all that but I think it's really amazing like the amount of time and effort he dedicates into his videos and I don't know. I watched some like smaller channels like, there's this one model from Switzerland and she's so good. I just like people who edit, like take their time editing and do-play with the music and stuff like that. I personally love that because I love editing.

9:07

Lilia: Yeah uh, have you gotten any gains from Youtube such as brand deals or something like that?

Camila: Um, yeah I got one sponsorship once and then I get a lot of people that like watch me and want to-like this for example like I, like it's just like my name is out there, my face is out there so people reach out to me for different things like Shiffon, the like ring company I work for, stuff like that yeah.

9:35

Lilia: That's so cool. Um, what have you learned from Youtube videos like educational videos, random facts, an important lesson taught by a video influencer, stuff like that?

Camila: Oh okay, so what I've learned from watching videos? Um, I've kind of learned that like people are very similar because you relate to a lot of videos and to like what people your age are saying and doing and even though like they live on like the other side of the country or they have a completely different life, the way people feel is very similar so we're all alike, I feel like, yeah.

10:14

Lilia: Um, and then more into like the research questions. Do you feel that Youtube is a key component to the spread of fake news and deceptive media, especially to the younger demographic?

Camila: Uh wait, a key component to what?

Lilia: Uh to spreading like fake news and like...

Camila: Oh yeah, absolutely because you make a good video and like people watch it and it like spreads so fast because it's social media plus like people are pretty like gullible on the internet and they get offended really fast and I don't know it's just so much easier to spread things on social media when you can hide behind a screen.

10:51

Lilia: Yeah uh, another question is do you believe the Youtube guidelines are enforced well enough on the platform or is government intervention necessary?

Camila: I think um, I'm not really like, I don't like, look into that a lot but I do think I see Youtube like they send me emails all the time and I see on um creator studios and all that, they are always adding, trying to like protect people and stuff like that but this, I don't think it's like part of the government like it's a whole other thing and it's worldwide too so like who gets a say in what goes on on the platform.

11:30

Lilia: Yeah, I agree with that. Um, according to a Fortune article, "Why Success on 'Youtube' Still Means a Life of Poverty" by Bloomberg, they state that Youtube won't provide enough money to support yourself and even go on to say, "Do your children dream of Youtube stardom? Do them a favor: Crush that ambition now." If you had a child who wanted to pursue a career in Youtube, would you let them or would you agree with Bloomberg and "crush that ambition"?

Camila: Um, I think I would absolutely let them do Youtube because who am I to say-I do Youtube. But it's something that like you should-I always feel like you should get an education, have a second plan, no matter what you do. Um Youtube, you know, came out of nowhere, blew up out of nowhere, it could like disappear just as fast and it's something-

recording cut off and batteries died

Isabel: Sorry, yeah it just like stopped out of nowhere...

Camila: Okay, okay yeah.

Isabel: So we'll redo the question. You're doing really well.

Camila: Alright, yeah. No problem, thanks.