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COMM 111, Section: Anna Anderson 10 am
Assignment: Informative Speech Preparation Outline
Due date: 26 October 2018

Speech title:

Specific Purpose: To inform my audience about [the death of 3 rappers in this past year](#).

Central Idea: [Lil Peep, XXXTentacion, and Mac Miller passed away for various reasons, but all left behind a unique legacy](#).

Organizational Pattern: Chronological and Topical

Introduction

- I. Attention-getter: What comes in threes, makes headlines everywhere, and turns smiles into frowns? No, it's not the 3 deathly hallows, but something equally, if not more, somber. Though in any given second there is somebody somewhere that dies, some of these deaths carry more weight to us than others. The passing of celebrities is an odd and unique moment in our culture, where we criticize, praise, and grieve an individual all at the same time.
- II. Establish credibility: Some may say that speaking about these deaths is too sad, but we must acknowledge that it is an unfortunate reality. And hopefully by approaching the subject in a neutral and understanding way we can learn about people and their legacy in a respectful manner.
- III. Relate topic to your audience: Though I don't know what kind of music everyone here listens to, I'm sure that at one point or another you've noticed that rap music has taken the world by storm. It's the zeitgeist of pop culture.
- IV. Preview your main points: There are often lyrics that talk about drugs, violence, or depression, but unfortunately these phenomena are real, and sometimes deadly. This year, three very different rappers have died in three very different ways, each leaving their own unique mark on our world.

[Transition: The first of which being an artist known by the name Lil Peep.]

Body

- I. First main point: Gustav Elijah Ahr, also known as Lil Peep, first found success in his music career online, uploading music to SoundCloud. After releasing several mixtapes, Peep began to build a small but dedicated fanbase. His music lyrics often talked about his frequent drug use and his depression. Pitchfork published an article in 2017, "Tears of a Dirtbag" describing him as the future of punk, combining themes of suicide and revenge with trap drums and scraggly guitars.
 - A. Supporting detail: However, beneath these dark lyrical themes, was an equally sad lifestyle. Lil Peep was a heavy user of drugs, abusing substances to cope with his mental

issues, and eventually, it came to a breaking point. Exactly three months after the release of his debut album, Gus died from an accidental drug overdose.

1. Sub-detail 1: Between the different tests performed, they found painkillers, cannabis, cocaine, and several strong opiates in his system, as reported by PEOPLE Magazine in a 2017 article titled “Lil Peep Died of Toxic Fentanyl-Xanax Overdose: Report”.
- B. Supporting detail: After his death, his album peaked at no. 38 on the billboard 200. His emotional genre defying music left a legacy, and posthumous recordings are being released to this very day.

[Transition: [Though Peep’s death was tragic, it was not unforeseen. The death of rapper XXXTentacion was sudden and unexpected.](#)]

- II. Second main point: XXXTentacion, or Dwayne Onfroy, was another rapper that passed away in this past year. X was nothing if not controversial. Between allegations of domestic abuse, issues of violence throughout his life, and his time spent in prison, he was always surrounded by controversy. And his music was just as polarizing as his actions. XXX’s highly aggressive music style helped define the sound of South Florida rap and SoundCloud rap in general, but it’s extremely vulgar and violent lyrics were off-putting to many music critics and music listeners alike. However, after being released from prison, X had turned a new leaf. His music went from hostile to vulnerable, and the rapper found his calling as a role model for kids who wanted to turn their life around. After seeing major success with his ep “17”, and his studio album with only a question mark as the title, Xxx was shot multiple times and killed in the streets of his hometown, as reported by Sun-Sentinel in their 2018 article “Deadly Ambush of XXXTentacion Detailed in New Court Papers”. XXXTentacion’s death was grieved by many but he remains just as divisive now as he was when he lived. His voice remains relevant as prominent artists such as Lil Wayne and Kanye West continue to drop albums using recordings of XXXtentacion.

[Transition: [The love for XXX was not universal due to his contentious past. Rapper and producer Mac Miller, however, was loved by all.](#)]

- III. Third main point: Mac Miller was a prolific artist during his time. He and Drake had a friendly rivalry to the title “best Jew in the rap game.” Not only did Mac Miller rap and sing on his own records and mixtapes, but he produced the beats for other rappers as well. As a producer he went by the name Larry Fisherman, and produced for many artists including Vince Staples, Ab-Soul, and Riff-Raff.
- A. Supporting detail: Mac Miller was found dead in his home, according to LA times 2018 article “Mac Miller found dead inside his studio city home”. also having overdosed on drugs. In his case, there are many people that say it was a suicide.

Conclusion

- I. Signal end of speech: Though dying is a sad and scary thing, what is important to take away is that all of these people were able to freely express themselves and found people who connected with their message.

- II. Summarize main points: Lil Peep, XXXTentacion, and Mac Miller passed away for various reasons, but all left behind a unique legacy.
- III. Memorable ending: Enjoy listening to music, but don't forget that some artists really do have issues, and that maybe we don't know the whole story.

References

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- Nelson, Jeff, and Mariah Haas. "Lil Peep Died of Toxic Fentanyl-Xanax Overdose: Report." *PEOPLE.com*, PEOPLE Magazine, 8 Dec. 2017, people.com/music/lil-peep-died-of-toxic-fentanyl-xanax-overdose-report/.
- Trischitta, Linda. "Deadly Ambush of XXXTentacion Detailed in New Court Papers." *Sun-Sentinel.com*, Sun Sentinel, 25 June 2018, www.sun-sentinel.com/news/fl-sb-xxx-targeted-20180622-story.html.
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