

Group 4 Wiki Page

Excerpts from Group 4 student writing on the wiki used in ENG 2200 Introduction To English Studies, St. Johns University, Queens, NY in spring 2013 (student names have been removed)

Chapter 2: Elementary Principles of Composition

Rule: 12. "Choose a suitable design and hold to it."

Author: Langston Hughes
Juke Box Love Song

I could take the Harlem Night
and wrap around you,
Take the neon lights and make a crown,
Take the Lenox Avenue busses,
Taxis, subways,
And for your love song tone their rumble down.
Take Harlem's heartbeat,
Make a drumbeat,
Put it on a record, let it whirl,
And while we listen to it play,
Dance with you till day--
Dance with you, my sweet brown Harlem girl.

Strunk and White discuss how all writers have some type of form to their piece of writing and Langston Hughes is a prime example of adding the "flesh and blood" to the skeleton.

Writers have to know the rules in order to manipulate them and make them to be what they want them to be. Creativity comes from manipulating the rules. It also comes from being inspired by other people and taking some of their style and making it the individuals own. Strunk and White believe that "the more clearly the writer perceives the shape, the better are the chances of success" (Strunk & White 31.) I don't completely agree with that because sometimes novels, poems, and other forms of writing come out of nowhere. In many cases the real genius is in the spontaneity.

Some brave souls
choose to wear
their hearts
on their
sleeves,
but I,
brave or stupid
or perhaps
both,
have chosen instead
to wear mine
on yours.

-Tyler Knott Gregson-

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Chapter 2: An Approach To Style

Rule: 1. Place yourself in the background

" Write in a way that draws the reader's attention to the sense and substance of the writing, rather than to the mood and temper of the author. If the writing is solid and good, the mood and temper of the writer will eventually be revealed and not at the expense of the work. Therefore, the first piece of advice is this: to achieve style, begin by affecting none- that is, place yourself in the background. A careful and honest writer does not need to worry about style. (Strunk and White, 97)

This section of *The Elements of Style* made me think of those commercials that leave you with the memory of the hip song they feature.... and nothing else...

...Frank McCourt's *Angela's Ashes*, perhaps one of our best-known modern memoirs, is not just about McCourt. It's about poverty and despair and hope and escape, about the struggles of {Mccourt's} family and his country. Like any good story, a good memoir is multi-layered. The narrator may be the "I" of the story, but he isn't only telling his story. He is a part of the story.