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HUM. 101.009

5 May 2017

#### Writing Assignment 4

Music has always been one of my favorite forms of art. Music allows the artist to tell a story and/or entertain the audience. Different types and styles of music generate different types of emotions while the audience is listening to that particular song. One of my favorite songs is one that has meaning, emotion, and was created with somewhat of a strategy in mind; a strategy that adds complexity to the song and makes the audience want to listen to the song more than once.

The song I decided to write about is titled “Niki” by the Hip-Hop artist Logic. The song Niki undoubtedly falls under the Hip-Hop category because it contains a steady drum rhythm, contains different samples, and contains an MC that is layered on top of the beat. This song, just like most Hip-Hop songs, focuses on the MC’s lyrics. It focuses on the lyrics so much that for much of the song, Logic only has his voice and one other instrument; it is not until 40 seconds into the song where the listener finally hears a drum beat. Logic purposely does this, especially in this song, because he wants to draw attention to his voice and the story and meaning he has intertwined into the lyrics.

Throughout Logic’s career as a rapper, he has referred to a girl named Nikki. The audience, never learns much about Nikki through his previous albums or songs until the release of his Debut album named Under Pressure. The name of the album rightfully summarizes the

tone of the album because most of the songs have a deep or low sound to them; hence the audience feels like they are under pressure.

Throughout the album *Under Pressure*, Logic illustrates his rough life through his lyricism in hopes that the person listening can not only relate but change his or her life for the better. This particular song does just that. Throughout the song, Logic talks about his relationship with Niki; a relationship that he wanted at one point but now wants to end it as it is killing him from the inside out. Literally killing him because the audience learns, during last line of the last verse of the song, that Nikki is actually nicotine. However, before the audience knows this, he describes the character Niki as being a real person. He purposely does this to trick the audience into thinking the song is about a break up; which, if the listener ignores the last few lines of the song, it can be about a break up. Instead, the true meaning of this song is about addiction and how Logic dealt with his addiction of nicotine; but the audience can attach the meaning of the song to any sort of addiction, it does not have to be about nicotine specifically. This is one of the reasons why he does not use the word nicotine until the end of the song.

One aspect that sets this song apart from other Hip-Hop songs is that Logic, in a sense, layers multiple meanings on top of one another but still uses one story. This is obviously a very difficult and time consuming process to do well enough that the listener still has the same reaction even after listening to the song multiple time before. It also helps that the song has a slower tempo compared to most Hip-Hop music; he most likely does this for a few reasons. The first is that so the listener, even the ones who do not listen to Hip-Hop often, can understand him and focus on the meaning of the song rather than trying to figure out what Logic is saying in his lyrics. The second is that it fits with the meaning of the song; having an addiction is not a fun or joyful thing when someone is trying to get rid of it, the beat of the song tries to replicate what the

listener might feel when they hear the word addiction. Lastly, the slower tempo helps differentiate this song from the rest of his album; not to say the rest of the album has a very fast tempo, but it is mostly a little quicker than the song Niki.

Because of all this, the song is noticeably different from most modern day Hip-Hop songs. Many mainstream Hip-Hop songs do not provide a valuable story or lesson to the listener. This leads to the next point about how Niki is a combination of both music and a story; a major characteristic of what most people would consider makes a song valuable.

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