WRITING PORTFOLIO

ANTHONY COMPORT

anthony1c9@gmail.com
(724) 678-2308

40 Sherman Ave / APT B4
New York, NY / 10040

CONTENTS

1
Consulting Report

(abbreviated for this portfolio)

Real-world issues contain levels of complexity that demand the consideration of multiple perspectives, and compromise-focused solutions. This consulting report advocates for the renewal and use of green space in suburban areas.

As a comprehensive analysis, it accounts for the interconnected perspectives of residents and developers.

As a proposal, it presents a rhetorical action plan to be used by community organizations in order to advocate on their own behalf.

This document demonstrates engagement with multiple parties and perspectives, a precise, actionable proposal, and a holistic consideration of a complex problem.

A Livable World: Spaces of Nature Within Suburban Communities

Part I. An Analysis of the Environmental Dialogue

This report deals with the intersection of two well-known spheres of the American landscape: wilderness and suburbia. More than fifty percent of Americans live in suburbs, which increasingly have taken the form of developments planned and constructed by a single agency or company. I grew up in such a suburb in the southern reaches of metropolitan Pittsburgh. A rolling expanse of hilly woodland, most developments in those suburbs had to contend with the topographical erraticism of the land. Homes are commonly built into hillsides, and in the case of my own development, plotted around large ravines, wooded ditches, and other stretches of land unsuitable for construction. I consider myself especially lucky to have lived in such a development. Within the confines of the community, populated mostly by single families, we were safe to explore those couple acres of untouched, creek-crossed woodland that sat in a valley in the center of our development.

The problem as I see is it is a lack of these natural environments within American suburbs. The inclusion of one in my own was by chance and necessity. Community planners have negligible interest in incorporating pure wilderness in the confines of their developments. I believe that this creates a suburban panopticon that diminishes both objective quality of life and subjective experience of the natural world. Furthermore, it separates the community from nature, disinvesting the natural world from our private and public lives. This in itself is a grave concern: humans continue to exert tremendous influence on the natural world. As it becomes a forgotten and faded part of our everyday experience, we lose a sense of responsibility, of consequence, and of care for the the wilderness surrounding our communities, and our lives.

…

Part II. A Rhetorical Action Plan

The Rhetorical Challenge

This plan, in short, asks township zoning boards to reconsider how green space is used and developed within future suburban communities. From a logistical perspective, the most common and time-honored approach to community planning is one of maximum spatial efficiency: dividing the land into the largest possible number of individual parcels, all of which are then developed into individual properties. This provides any given community its largest potential population, and development companies their largest potential profit. Our goal is to persuade township zoning boards to look past these short-sighted monetary rewards and instead towards a grander, greener vision of the future; a future in which neighborhoods not only empower their citizens to affect positive environmental change, but provide salient benefits to the entire community as a whole. The centerpiece of these future communities are undeveloped parcels of land within individual suburban developments that are left to exist as natural green spaces, owned and operated by the community. These spaces are intended as environmental watersheds, providing an ecological benefit to the region, and a quality-of-life benefit to the entire community. However, these benefits aren't necessarily immediately obvious, especially to zoning boards that have been

operating under the same development philosophy for multiple successive generations of community planning. This philosophy, that of maximum spatial efficiency, presents two distinct rhetorical problems that we must deal with.

The first question any given township zoning board would most likely pose is why valuable, empty land fit for property development within suburban communities should be preserved as open, green space. This problem arises from the confluence of two interrelated factors: the working relationship between development companies and township zoning, and the resulting profit-motivated development philosophy that influences zoning policy in suburban communities. Township zoning boards are composed primarily of citizens of the communities they set policies for; thus, it is fair to say that they have the best interests of their citizens at heart. That being said, without the environmental dimension this report represents, zoning boards will assume that's what's best for development companies is best for citizens.

While zoning boards won't typically set policies that produce unpleasantly dense living conditions, the idea of maximum spatial efficiency is the default "everyone wins" philosophy. In other words, as long as each individual residence occupies an acceptably large piece of land, zoning boards don't typically have any reason to reduce the possible number of residences within a community. This way, maximum population density can be achieved, which results in both local tax profit for the state, and property sale profit for development companies. This creates a mutually beneficial relationship between zoning boards and development companies, at the sacrifice of the environment and potential living conditions within the community. Our goal isn't to disrupt this relationship, but rather to work within its confines to provide a rhetorical solution to this problem that accounts for the interests of all parties: zoning boards, communities, and development companies. Our challenge here is to introduce the environmental factor in order to argue against land being used solely for development.

Our primary challenge may be addressing the flaws in the the profit-motivated philosophy of maximum spatial efficiency, but another rhetorical problem remains: convincing zoning boards that land preserved from development can be used to benefit the community moreso than if those spaces were developed. In other words, if we're able to convince the zoning board that it's beneficial to not develop part of the land within suburban communities, the question remains of what to do with that land. Simply preserving it as green space is one thing, but again, we need something to challenge the lure of pure financial profit when simple environmental benefit may not be an immediately tangible motive. The problem, as a zoning board would see it, is a lack of better options as to how undeveloped space might be used to benefit the community. Thus, our challenge is to provide the zoning board with practical options for how these spaces could be used in a way that would actually provide practical, tangible benefits to individual citizens as well as the community at large.

The Rhetorical Solutions

As discussed above, the first problem we can expect to run into is the question of why valuable land should be preserved within communities. The solution to this problem lies in redefining these preserved green spaces as part of the community. Thus, rather than an obstacle to zoning boards, green spaces are seen as not only the responsibility, but property of the community at large. In other words, as we can assume that citizens care about their community, we can assume that citizens will value these green spaces if they see those spaces as part of their community. That said, the solution isn't as simple as labeling a parcel of land "part of the community" and calling it a day. Inclusion in a community is a question of value; what value does preserving green space have? What can those green spaces bring to the table that developed land cannot? These are, at their heart, questions of environmental consciousness. In order to engage the environmental consciousnesses of zoning board members, I propose a three-step solution that redefines green spaces as a valuable component to suburban communities, through the mechanism of engaging citizens as valuable and empowered environmental agents.

The prototype document this report concerns takes the form of a website. Each step of our rhetorical plan corresponds to a different page of this website. For reference:

Part 1, Step 1: Our Community
Part 1, Step 2: A New Opportunity
Part 1, Step 3: Power to the People
Part 2, Step 1: New Possibilities
Part 2, Step 2: Co-Operation
Part 2, Step 3: A Case Example

Part 1, Step 1: Our Community

The first step of this solution is to bring up environmental problems local to the community. Our goal, that of advocating for green spaces, is a goal with an entirely local area of impact: it affects each individual communities and the citizens therein. Thus, the most effective rhetorical strategy to engage the collective sense of ecological ethics of an individual community is to locate environmental problems that are present within the daily lives of those citizens. While issues like rising sea temperatures and melting polar ice caps are pressing environmental concerns, they're far removed from the daily life of citizens in most suburban communities. To affect concern in citizens, we need to remind them of concerns that are of as local a nature as possible. Whether it be a dwindling number of small farms within the region, a lack of local parks or trails, or less and less diversity in local wildlife, environmental problems within a community that are more likely to affect a citizen's daily life are more likely to be a cause for real concern, and more importantly, more likely to be a call for action.

Part 1, Step 2: A New Opportunity

Once we've identified a local environmental problem, our next step is to present green space within suburbs as a community-wide opportunity for citizens to have a tangible, positive environmental impact. This will of course depend on how that green space is specifically used, but in any case, this land is a tangible mechanism

that citizens can engage with in order to actually create some positive, local change. Better yet, it's quite literally within their own backyards. By presenting green space as such an opportunity, we're endowing it with value, imbuing it with a desirable property that will then redefine it as a valuable part of the community. Furthermore, this not only allows and encourages citizens to be agents of environmental change, but creates a chance for local community improvement. Environmental change, while a positive outcome, isn't quite as tangible a benefit as something that directly improves the livelihood or quality of life for the citizens of any given community. For example, using undeveloped space as a local vegetable garden allows an opportunity for eco-friendly local farming. Thus, the local environment not only benefits, but the community has a source of homemade source fresh produce. In this case, citizens have not only bettered their local environment, but receive a tangible, economic, material reward, in the form of fresh vegetables. This mutually beneficial exchange imbues the green space with value, thus making it a valued part of the community.

Part 1, Step 3: Power to the People

In order to clearly communicate the nature of such opportunities to zoning board members, we can employ the rhetorical strategy of modeling in order to provide citizens with an idea of how their agency will impact their environment and community. I've discussed how various authors construct individuals as archetypes in relation to the environment; gardeners, guardians, citizens of the natural world. Each of these represent rhetorical modeling options that we can present as examples and ideals. The archetype of the gardener, for example, can be used to communicate lofty ideals in a practical matter. A gardener brings life into the earth, able to turn a barren lot into a source of food for the community. By constructing citizens as gardeners, or guardians, or citizens, we can present positive, desirable qualities that individuals can strive for by being agents of environmental change within their own communities. Thus, the philosophical ideals tied to the archetype of a gardener (a giver of life, a provider, someone in tune with the earth) can be modeled alongside options for how green spaces can be put to practical use in order to provide citizens with an opportunity to embody the positive qualities of the gardener archetype in a practical way.

Part 2, Step 1: New Possibilities

The second rhetorical problem we need to address is the question of how to best use the undeveloped land to provide sufficient incentive in order to validate its use as green space. While engaging with the environmental ethic of the community is necessary to define these small portions of the natural world as nature, we need to convince citizens that this land can actually benefit them in their daily lives. In order to meet this challenge, I recommend a three-step rhetorical strategy that equates preserved green spaces with better quality of life.

The first step is to provide practical options of how preserved land might be used within the community. If possible, our recommendations should address the most pressing environmental problem within the community. For example, if dwindling small farms remove a source of local produce for the residents of a neighborhood, we'd be most effective in suggesting green space can be used as a community vegetable garden. If the community lacks safe, accessible parks, trails, or recreation areas, we should suggest this be what green space, at least part

of it, can be used for. Furthermore, if the size and ecosystem of a natural area permits, we can suggest it's suitability for a wildlife preserve, an orchard, or a source of fish and firewood. In any case, presenting the most appropriate option will clue zoning board members in on some of the practical possibilities of preserved green space, all of which better the lifestyle of the community.

Part 2, Step 2: Co-Operation

At this point, we've provided zoning board members with the idea of preserving natural space within the confines of a community, allowing residents both an opportunity for ecological engagement and a sustainable benefit to quality of life. That being said, we must consider the concerns of all involved parties, who as part of a community, are able to exert influence on each other. In this case, those parties include not only the zoning board members and present and future area residents, but the development companies that seek to purchase land subject to zoning laws. Thus, it's to our benefit to consider the cost/benefit ratio of all parties; we should address concerns, but focus on the positive aspects of our plan. For individual citizens, we should remind them of the direct benefit of green spaces, and an opportunity to better the environment. Considering zoning boards as community institutions, we should characterize these green spaces as opportunities to provide services and direct benefits to the citizens of their community. And for development companies, we should focus on the potential for increased property value within these neighborhoods. Better quality of life does warrant higher home prices. Neighborhoods with preserved green spaces can be portrayed as attractive places to live; ethically guided communities that benefit alongside the local environment.

Part 2, Step 3: A Case Example

The final step of our plan should be to model an existing, real-life community that makes use of preserved green space to provide a good, service, or ecological benefit to its residents. While the ideal option for such a model would be one within geographical or cultural proximity to the zoning board's jurisdiction, this prototype uses the town of Weston, Massachusetts. Weston has a long history of sustainable farming, forestry, and educational initiatives that have ingratiated ecologically beneficial activities and natural spaces within the fabric of the community. By providing a real-world model, we're able to concretize our vision of a community that makes use of green space in our audience's minds. Weston represents a positive outcome to the actions we suggested, thus lending further gravitas for our ideas.

…

2
AmeriCorps Service Profile

This profile was written at the end of my year of service with AmeriCorps KEYS Corps, in Pittsburgh, PA. It is a personal reflection on a year spent serving an urban community, submitted to the AmeriCorps archives as a first-hand account of public service.

This profile also engages the sheer complexity of real-world problems. That said, this profile is inherently political, and relies solely on my own lived experience.

I attempted to create a poetic reflection on a truly meaningful experience, while recognizing the problems and complexities inherent in social work.

Once the charming fragility of that first snowfall dissipates in hearts and minds, a steady and familiar fear creeps into our voices as the winter begins to set in. It's reflected in our language, the words we color the outside world with: freezing, miserable, icy. We soldier on through the seemingly endless string of grey days and pitch black nights. The rages and swells of biting wind and snarling swirls of snow affect a predatory guise over the outside world: it seeps into the air and sinks into our bones. The winter blues, more or less. We equate winter with lifelessness. Birds fly south, mammals hibernate, the annual lifecycle of insects ends en masse. Even the hardiest of us retreat to the warmth and levity of our homes and families, the nervous clamor of winter's throes drowned in the euphony of warm laughter and sweet talk.

But where does this fear really lie? We've taken great collective pains to to ready ourselves for the winter months; snow boots and snow tires, heavy coats and hot chocolate. Our emotional ordinances shift to vaunted affections: togetherness, family, spirituality. Warmth, in close proximity to those we love.

So what makes the bone-chilling winds and sub-zero temperatures so much worse than, say, the crushing heatwaves of mid-summer, or the sweltering, heavy humidity of homes sans air conditioner? Winter is not absent of light and beauty. Surely much poetry, music, and art has been born of winter's captivating aesthetic charms. But beyond that lies a sinister concealment. A concealment of what we know to be true and flush with life. Whiteness covers the greens and blues, and cold fronts choke the sun's warmth out of the air before it can reach our skin, covered as it is by wool and leather.

Moreso, the cold's most treacherous culprit is also its most illusory: ice, and its constant, sly, and unavoidable presence. In essence the purest agent of winter's chokehold, ice is nothing more than a different form of nature's most abundant resource. But when taken out of its natural context, out of pools and rivers and oceans, and exposed to raw winds and hypothermic air, water cools, clears, and hardens. Water, ironically, poses its greatest threat in the most minute and docile scenarios. A small splash, no more than might spill out of an overturned plastic bottle, thins and spreads over pavement and concrete. Left there long enough, the patch of afflicted road will no longer exist. The carefully calibrated friction of the concrete, engineered to complement the rubber of tires and snow boots, becomes a non-factor, an irrelevant victim to the weather's violent disposition. Therein lies the fear.

Black ice, we call it. Ice, in such a thin layer, is wholly absent of color, of any sort of inherent visual property. Rather than absorb light, it reflects and transmits it. Thrown onto the road, ice will adopt of the visual character of the pavement beneath it. From unfocused eyes or a moving car, the two are virtually indistinguishable. We are quick to placidly assume ice's absence. We often forego the notion that layers of separation might exist between the road and our tires, between our perception and reality. We can see the road. Our daily, thoughtless commute might take us right through it. But to make this assumption, to ignore the possibility of our eyes deceiving us, of our own possible ignorance, is to forego our ability to live fully, to drive and go forward intact and unhindered.

When I first began working at the Thelma Lovette YMCA, my most pressing fear was

one of perception. I wasn't sure what to make of my position, of my role as a volunteer, a mentor, a teacher, or a guide. What did it really mean to serve, and be involved and invested in this position and community, for just a single year? It helped that AmeriCorps was a larger enterprise. Whereas I was a temporary fixture, an outsider, AmeriCorps was an established, consistent, and long-standing entity within the Pittsburgh communities it served. In that, I considered myself more a part of a larger whole than an individual. Nonetheless, the inevitable reality remained that 11 months after I began my position, I would leave it. The relationships that I formed would fade, my life path would carry on independent of the community and those in it.

Cognizant of this, I wanted to both impact and understand. I wanted to create real meaning through human relationships, and wrap my head around the nature of those relationships, and how they related to the community around me. My first days were tense and awkward. I slowly became aware of the illusory ice that blanketed the reality of the work. I had been remotely aware of the Hill District, as a problematized, historic community that was a burgeoning and vital element of Pittsburgh's community spirit, of the city's willingness to invest in itself, to care for its citizens. I'd heard and read stories of non-profits keeping families in their homes, of drug deals gone sour, of dedicated advocacy groups, of chaotic violence, of incredible togetherness, of poverty. Despite this, my first few days in the Hill District were comparatively less grand, less likely to fill headlines and populate op-eds. Above all, those first few days opened my eyes to how much *life* existed there. Of how many families, friendships, and lives had filled in the pages of local history. There were jokes told, sidewalks swept, food eaten, hair cut, groceries bought. It was at once isolating and familiar. In other words, this was a living, breathing world, with rules and dialect that were all but foreign to me.

Over time, this unfamiliarity faded away. I got to know my coworkers, the staff at the Y, and the kids in my classroom. I began to form human connections, and relationships. My fears of perception faded away as I became more grounded in the reality of the place. The Hill District revealed itself in small ways. Hand-painted cardboard signs advertising fish fries. Conversations about local artists with ten-year old kids. Childhood stories from the Y's bus-driver. Conversations and concerns over friends and families, funerals and marriages, the Steeler's playoffs fate, Sunday service, and Monday news headlines.

I began to learn that human relationships, the impact that you can have on human lives, isn't necessarily contextualized by finite temporal, spatial, or cultural concerns. It wasn't necessarily significant that I would only be here for a year, that I had grown up hundreds of miles away, that my life had been filled with wildly different hopes and fears than those around me. One of the wonderful things about working with children is that those concerns don't exist outside of the moment. Simply being there, present and consistent, was enough. I supplanted my own concerns, about being temporary, or an outsider, with the concerns of homework, the pressure of school, children's social politics, home lives and family dynamics. To move past the ice, to embed myself in reality, was as simple as, cliched as it may be, trying to live in someone else's shoes for a bit. I no longer had to fear the ice and cold, the separation between perception and reality, only because the kids couldn't care less about silly conceptual metaphors and overtly philosophical fears. It didn't matter to them. It had no impact on the time we spent slogging through multiplication tables, completing STEM projects, or tossing a

football around while talking about favorite movies and music.

This is where I felt the most impactful, in simply being a constant and positive force in someone's life. This is where I feel I've served. A year of my life, in the grand scheme, is terribly trite. But a year in the lives of a dozen children, small as my role may be in those lives, is a real chance to impart knowledge and to model behavior. To form relationships that exist in memories and advice, in conversations and report cards. That, to me, has been the beauty of serving.

All that being said, I do feel it necessary to take a step back, to remove myself from the moment for a bit, and look at the bigger picture, momentarily insignificant as it may be to the details of my work and the conscious experience of the kids I'm serving. There's no doubt that the Hill District is a much-loved and oft-talked about neighborhood. In a sense, it's experienced a community-driven renaissance. A multitude of organizations, community centers, and charitable groups exist within the Hill District to serve the neighborhood. Government-funded organizations like AmeriCorps and many others are plentiful, in the Hill District and other neighborhoods.

Nonetheless, there exists an unpleasant social reality. The Hill District is similar to many of the impoverished communities in Pittsburgh: it's plagued by hard drug use and dealing, crime, gang violence, addiction, disease, underfunded public schools, lack of access to proper medical and psychiatric care, and broken families. These problems
impact the children I serve. They know well the smell of marijuana, which street corners to avoid, and which cars to cast wary eyes on. Many have cousins, or parents, in jail. Most come from single-parent households. Fear and crime are a part of their daily life.

The Hill District is also predominantly African-American. It's certainly worth asking why this reality exists; how, in the wealthiest country on Earth, our government allows these conditions to exist and profligate. For all the good that programs like AmeriCorps do, it's like treating a bullet wound with a band-aid. I fear for this community, because many of the conversations I've had with members in it suggest a real and legitimate feeling of a lack of agency among the neighborhood's denizens. There's a hopelessness and powerlessness implicit in the recognition of these social conditions. It weaves its way into discussions about everything from extremely personal family matters to the overarching political situation. In any case, there's valid anger. Valid disappointment. Valid disgust. And no real target for the blame. Of course, there's the government, the representative democracy we pride ourselves on. But even under the guise of social liberalism that characterized the Obama administration, there was no strong and real recognition from the government that conditions for minorities have actively been constructed and perpetuated by governments local, statewide, and national. I've had to ask myself, as I think everyone should, how complicit I am in this social order. Yes, I've spent a year working in a community all but destroyed by institutional decisions and openly racist policies, but I also pay my taxes, funding the War on Drugs that's imprisoned fathers, sons, uncles, and brothers. I've signed my selective service agreement, tacitly validating our military expeditions that cost thousands of lives and rip away funding from education and health-related initiatives. I only balk quietly at the very idea of patriotism. What does this mean to the communities who've been given the short end of the stick for centuries? What does it mean to support governmental institutions that are deliberately structured to impoverish

minorities? What does it mean to be a citizen in the United States, to dually feel pride and rage, while the government totes its cultural and moral supremacy, its so called "exceptionalism"? What does it mean to keep my head down, and protest peacefully, as an openly racist and predatory administration attempts to create a new age of wage slavery, the seeds of which are being planted in communities like the Hill District? I don't know the answers to these questions. I don't know who does. What I do know is that working in this community, serving an organization like AmeriCorps, has shown me the capacity of people for tremendous benevolence, care, and love for their fellow man and community members. This capacity stands in sharp contrast to the institutional powers that affect the very conditions and realities KEYS tries to reverse. In essence, a country fighting against itself. How could fear not cast itself over hope, like ice on pavement in the dead of winter.

3

Collaborative Job Description

This piece was created in close collaboration with a student-colleague majoring and specializing in Computer Science. Our goal was to create an example job posting for a hypothetical tech startup. In doing so, we worked to combine my writing ability with my colleague's technical knowledge and expertise.

In terms of the document itself, the writing is mine, produced via conversation, discussion, and mutual review.

That said, this document is a fully collaborative effort; I've included it as an example of my ability to translate and adapt technical information to a purposeful format embedded in real-world practice.

UI Software Engineer (C++)
Aesthetics Programming Department

Company Description

      People Insights is a software firm created by the collaborative efforts of "People Experts" (Clinical/Organizational Psychologists), statisticians, and computer scientists. We lead the way in providing companies with the tools and resources they need to dynamically obtain insights into their employees' productivity, well-being, and workplace culture. Our software is used primarily by human resources personnel, internal operations teams, and organizational psychologists to track a variety of pre-defined people-related data in order to drive internal policies, directives, and decisions. Some of the features we provide include: productivity tracking based on expert-created pre-defined metrics, sentimental analysis obtained via text analysis, and a variety of employee and manager surveys with tested validity. Our software additionally provides the most up-to-date information on research studies relating to organizational culture, productivity, and employee well-being initiatives. Our mission is to provide other companies and experts with an easy-to-understand tools that help them to shape their best-possible workplace environment.

The Role

      Working alongside the Senior UI Software Engineer, your primary responsibility will be coding, maintaining, debugging, and improving the user interface of the People Insights Software and related tools (i.e. in-software presentation features and interactions). UI Software Engineers are thus responsible for creating high quality, efficient codes for the GUI, primarily using C++. You will also assist in coding high-fidelity prototypes of our product to be used in product testing studies. Finally, you will work closely with the Senior UI Software Engineer and Senior UX/UI designer to develop solutions that meet our standards for optimization, efficiency, and feasibility from both a technical and human resources perspective. You may occasionally assist in programming other components of the product when needed.

Qualifications:
- *B.S Computer Science/ Information Systems/ Software Engineering (or other related technical degree i.e mathematics)*
- Proficiency with C++
- Experience with Java, JavaScript, and Python
- Linux/ Command Line Experience
- Able to produce clear, robust, efficient, and readable code.
- In-depth understanding of Object Oriented Programming
- Prior academic or corporate experience coding GUI's in C++. Please upload samples to GitHub. (*No existing example from academic or corporate experience? Upload one from a personal project or start a new personal project and send it to us.*)
- Diligence, and a curiosity to continue learning and expanding your knowledge

- Team player: *We pride ourselves on being a collaborative environment: you will be working with a diverse array of colleagues, and they need to be able to easily understand your intentions, functions, and goals.*
- Desire to have meaningful and lasting impact on a product

Preferred Qualifications:
- *Masters in Computer Science or B.S in CS with an additional major or minor in user interface design/human-computer interaction (or related field).*
- Existing knowledge of **Human Factors** and **User-Centered Design**
- Experience building data visualizations
- Prior experience in a start-up setting

Our Culture

We practice what we preach: our employees are our top priority. We are constantly enacting initiatives to ensure the well-being of our workforce. We make data-driven decisions and welcome new ideas. We strive to create an environment that promotes intellectual growth and curiosity. Our organizational structure further promotes the flow of new ideas, constructive feedback, and open communication amongst every member of our team.

4

Narrative/Linguistic Analysis

This is a large document, and for ease of access and navigation, I have included it in a separate file.

The humanities often get a bad rap of not being particularly "technical". Nonetheless, I've found throughout my academic career that the humanities contain oceans of complexity, technical expertise, and analytical processes.

This project analyzes a spoken, conversational narrative using the techniques and theories of William Labov. In essence, I break the narrative down into its component parts, and discuss the mechanical function of those parts in order to create a comprehensive technical analysis of the narrative.

I've included this piece as an example of "technical" writing, in that it engages a real-world narrative using a precise, codified, methodical technique.

5

Dissertation on Vaporwave Art

This is a large document, and for ease of access and navigation, I have included it in a separate file.

Part of what I enjoy most about writing is the ability to distill ideas, movements, and complexities into a coherent, accessible package. Writing allows me the opportunity to truly *learn* and *absorb* an endlessly fascinating array of information, and then communicate that information to diverse audiences.

This piece analyzes the form and function of a relatively obscure digital art movement born in the age of the Internet. In that, I've created a comprehensive, inherently readable summation and exploration of something beautiful, relevant, and important.