Project Proposal and Justification

Title: *Extraordinary Rhymes*

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Preliminary Project Proposal 2.0

The title of my project is: *Extraordinary Rhymes*. It is web app designed for functionality on desktop computers, tablets, and mobile devices. The app is a web page that allows a user to input lyrics via a text field and helps the user to write song lyrics. The app is targeted toward writing rhymes for rap songs (hip-hop). To this end, the app helps in about five different ways: 1) highlighting rhymes found within the lyrics and *suggesting* rhymes if the user is following a rhyme scheme, 2) allowing the user to label sections of the text as belong to different parts of the song (i.e. the chorus, the verse(s), the intro), perhaps using color highlighting, 3) counting bars or syllables within individual bars of text, 4) perhaps a dictionary or thesaurus function, 5) helping the user to fit the song into popular existing song structures (AABA) or rhyme schemes as well as educate the user on different rhyme schemes. In all likelihood, the app will not include all five features, but perhaps a smattering of all of them.

Project Proposal 3.0

For a brief overview of the project, see the above section. The app will be a web app, there will therefore be no downloadable form of the app, neither on a desktop OS, a tablet, or a phone. The app will be built primarily using client-side web technologies, such as jQuery, JavaScript, HTML, CSS, and so on and so forth. Calls to various API services will be made using Ajax requests. The app can be hosted on any web server desired, whether it be a Python, Apache, or Node.js web server, the choice is trivial. Most of the business logic for the app will reside within the JavaScript files created for the app.

When the user is finished typing their lyrics we will allow one of two export forms: 1) a desktop user will receive and exported HTML file formatted to retain the highlighting and annotating of his lyrics, or 2) a mobile user will receive an e-mail to a link containing their exported lyrics.

A possible idea for exporting includes sending pictures of the highlighted lyrics. This will remove the possibility of the user copying and pasting his lyrics, but it provides all of the information in a neat snapshot. Development of the app will be targeted toward desktop users primarily, so we will not be sorry if we fail to implement a static linking service or a picture e-mailing service for mobile users.

Justification 3.0

As of this moment there are virtually no apps that help songwriters (targeted toward rap, however) construct lyrics for their songs. There is one app called *Songwriter’s Pad*, that helps a user edit, create, and reorganize lyrics by structure. However, this app is not F2P. Seeing as that the project proposed should be relatively trivial and simple for anyone with a basic working knowledge of computer science to implement, we believe that it would be a crime not to develop a small web app that allows the editing of lyrics as well as the highlighting of rhyme schemes and the suggestion of rhymes. This project is not too ambitious given that it will make use of existing APIs for finding rhymes. We are thinking of using the *Datamuse API*, which is completely free and does not require an API key (since it’s read only).

In terms of writing complex rap lyrics with internal rhyme schemes and various other tricks and plays on words, we believe that this app will be relatively useful to those who like to write, compose, and produce songs, either as just a hobby, or even professionally. The greatest rappers have always written their lyrics on paper, or on their computer, or on their phone, but a tool such as this may at least be slightly helpful. The justification of this project is stressed in that it’s free, simple (not too difficult), and useful (fills a particular niche).

In order to demonstrate the complexity of a rhyme scheme, we offer the following, taken from *Wikipedia*:

My **unusual style** will **confuse you a while**

If I were water, I'd flow in the **Nile**

So many **rhymes** you won't have **time** to go for **yours**

Just **because** of **applause** I have to **pause**

**Right** after **tonight** is when I **prepare**

To catch another sucker-duck MC out **there**

My **strategy** **has to be** **tragedy,** **catastrophe**

And after this you'll call me your **majesty…**

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Internal\_rhyme (retrieved on Jan. 20th, 2017)