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WRI 100

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Craft Journal #3: Early CNF Essay Ideas

1. For my non-fiction essay, I will be writing a profile on an individual with an interesting back story and a profound effect on the American people. This individual, although very odd and unconventional, has inspired change within the American political sphere and has given hope to middle class Americans. For my non-fiction essay, I may write about Ken Stevenson, the man formally known as Vermin Supreme. I will attempt to simulate the writing of Patricia Hampl in here work, “The Dark Art of Description”. In order to effectively capture this individual, I must be able to go further than antiquated and shallow definitions/backstory, but must actually attempt to make a connection to the reader and Vermin Supreme.
2. On the page, I hope to present myself as an individual without bias and simply someone who interprets behavior and motivations. Overall, I will make my tone to be one in which is similar to that of a documentary narrator where I focus on defining and clarifying points and the overall message I seek to inspire.
3. For the structure of my essay, I will focus first on describing the past and current phases of American politics in an effort to provide perspective to the reader as to Vermin Supremes unique stances. After giving a general look into American politics, I will attempt to define the public need for an outsider and how Stevenson is able to accurately fit that mold and also describe the connections that he makes with the general populous. This structure will make the most sense as my essay requires a backstory or background knowledge in order to reach the full intended effect and also educate the readers on possible motivations for Vermin’s (Stevenson’s) rise.
4. I will write about his 2004 run for presidency as it is the defining moment in which he first entered the political sphere and introduced a new and vibrant persona to the public. For this part, I will also describe the origins of his name, Vermin Supreme. The name as per his beliefs, signifies that all politicians are Vermin and thus, he is the supreme version or the most trustworthy. Within his 2004 run, he received 144 votes and placed 8th. The dialog will be his direct quotations such as “All politicians are, in fact, vermin. I am the Vermin Supreme, therefore I am the most qualified candidate in this race ... Yes, and I am a politician, that's my job. Of course, as a politician, I shall lie to you because I am a politician and have no reason not to,” and also "Vermin Supreme represents many abstract emotionally charged buzzwords -- such as freedom, justice, law, order, liberty and democracy -- just to name a few."
5. In terms of research, I will rely on the FEC (Federal Elections Commission) databases and all of their files on the presidential runs of 2004, 2008, 2012, and 2016, all of which Vermin Supreme has been an active presidential candidate. I will also rely on quotations from several news sources and also his website verminsupreme.com for further details into the mind of Ken Stevenson.
6. An idea I can choose to analyze is his gravitation towards exaggeration and hyperbole and explain how these beliefs are not truly radical but can be accepted by many. Take for example his beliefs in promoting dental health. Here, he provides a worthy cause but also exaggerates it by stating he supports warrantless random no knock dental inspections and government issued toothpaste containing addictive yet harmless substances and also video surveillance and motion tracking devices on toothbrushes. Here, by providing a comical and exaggerated twist to a valid cause, he is able to relay this need of proper dental health in a cunning and subtle way.
7. My timeline relies on the fact that on the week of April 18th, I will dedicate my time to fully securing my CNF essay topic and also gather all of the necessary evidence and also have an early draft presented by Thursday 4/21. Here throughout this week, I will also look to my professor for advice and concerns to see if my writing is headed in the right direction and is looks to be fully substantiated to the average reader.