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Writing 60

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Introduction & Research Writing Background

Allow me to introduce myself and shed light on the unique blend of interests and skills that define me. I am a second-year aerospace engineering student at UC Irvine, where I immerse myself in the fascinating realms of computer science and physics. These fields, often perceived as "witchcraft" and "alien-language" to many, hold no secrets for me, and I take great pleasure in their intricate intricacies. My passion extends to the art of creation – I revel in building, deconstructing, and crafting innovative solutions. Beyond the world of engineering, I indulge in strategic battles of wit through games like chess, checkers, and the renowned Settlers of Catan(Fig 1). However, my fascination doesn't stop there; I also find immense satisfaction in harnessing the power of spreadsheets and data visualization tools such as Matplotlib and Pandas, though I consider these more of a professional pursuit than a hobby. Writing serves as my medium for conveying complex ideas and discoveries to others. It allows me to articulate my thoughts on coding, graph interpretation, and, on occasion, showcase the depth of my intellectual curiosity. I will delve further into my identity as a writer in the forthcoming paragraphs.



[Fig 1: Settlers of Catan, a board game that revolves around harnessing natural resources to construct roads, settlements, and gather resource cards] (Mahoney)

In my journey as a writer, I have encountered a profound quote from one of my previous professors: "Reading is writing, read a lot and read often," (Trygstad, slide 10) As humans, we possess a remarkable ability to draw inspiration from the texts we consume, whether they be literary classics, online articles, or even internet memes. This statement resonated deeply with me because it placed an emphasis on the symbiotic relationship between reading and writing. Consider, for instance, the world of memes—a unique fusion of writing and art that often leveraged templates and existing content to create humor and commentary. As a dedicated consumer of social media, an avid baseball enthusiast, and a passionate video game aficionado, I find myself uniquely positioned to appreciate and engage with such memes. I can readily identify not only the images and references used in memes (Fig 2), but also discern whether they possess

the elusive quality of humor. My extensive exposure to this form of creative expression has equipped me with the skills to both appreciate and contribute to this unique realm of writing.



[Fig 2: A Typical Baseball Meme Featuring a Boss Fight Image from the Video Game Cuphead]

(Reddit)

In contrast, my exposure to academic writing has been somewhat limited, and consequently, my proficiency within this specific domain remains a work in progress. The GA Essay assignment in the Writing-45 course serves as a poignant example of the challenges I've encountered in this pursuit. This project presented formidable hurdles, as it marked my initial foray into independently conducting research for a scholarly essay. Beyond the requirement to

discern credible sources from the vast sea of available information, we were tasked with performing a nuanced analysis of how genre influences the selected musical composition. The most formidable challenge in this process lay in the initial brainstorming phase. Conceptualizing an effective approach for conveying the depth of knowledge I had acquired, and discerning the most pertinent information, proved to be a significant undertaking. It took several iterations before I managed to craft a structural framework that met my exacting standards. Even then, this demanding task demanded extensive hours spent in front of the computer screen. Nonetheless, this experience has undeniably played a pivotal role in my ongoing development as a writer.

Intro

The making of music streaming services such as Spotify, Apple Music, and Pandora had opened the door for creativity and complexity in the presentation of music. The complexity [] confused even the most intelligent AI in the world. This essay will attempt to use a literary approach to break down what artist chooses to make their song stand out from the crowd. More importantly we would use genre analysis and examine how genre norm and audience expectation influence the artist choice in their music. To begin, we would analyze the song, "*All I Want*" composed and performed by Olivia Rodrigo. Then we would consider what's the greater implication of our observation. Through storytelling, and arrangement of string instruments in the music piece, Olivia Rodrigo shows how pop music takes shape in the world dominated by social media, and how the pop music genre has so much life and nuance that is not so easily grasped.

Body

Before diving into deeper analysis. It's worthwhile that we discuss what was the primary medium that was in play here. The article, "*What makes music popular?*", by Ben Vaughn points to the celebrity influenced atmosphere in the pop community, "Pop music's appeal in 2001 centered on the evolution of a pop star...feature creation of albums"(Vaughn, 2004). The implication is that unlike traditional music where music is the main focus, pop artists would spend their time on cover, music video filming, and social media promotion for a higher chance of being recognized. The making of this song definitely follows a similar strategy. At the time of making, Rodrigo is the central character in one of the Disney TV shows. The song was made as a promotion to the show, and the music video would be used to shape the narrative of a young high school girl breaking away from a toxic relationship. The venue choice of beach also helps the story, used as a symbolism of lost but free sensation.



[Fig.1] Olivia Rodrigo in the TV Show "High School Musical: The Musical: The Series".

Furthermore, Rodrigo shows her style of pop by experimenting and mixing ideas from different genres which set her apart from other pop artists. Music critics like Music Laura Snapes describe Rodrigo's style as being, "rooted in heartache, mental health, and sadness, without being melodramatic, expressing more realistic perspectives than resilient" ("Olivia Rodrigo"). This

[Fig 3: Comparison of First/Final Draft of GA Essay]

As I embark on this new academic year, I eagerly anticipate honing my skills in academic research, mastering tools such as Google Scholar(Fig 4) and other online resources. Additionally, my goal is to establish a more consistent and efficient workflow for my writing projects. I aspire to cultivate a more intuitive and nuanced approach to writing, which will enhance my capabilities as both a writer and a critical thinker. This journey involves not only increasing my

reading and writing volume but also developing a discerning eye for distinguishing credible sources from unreliable ones. I approach this quarter with a mix of excitement and anticipation, ready to delve into the work and embrace the opportunity for growth and learning.



[Fig 4: Google Scholar - A Leading Research Tool] (MaxVal)

Work Cited

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