

Emily Ann Joseph

Professor Aaron Hammes

English 11000

### **Cover Letter**

In this assignment we were told to make a mixtape. A mixtape tells a story it has the same requirements but in song format. I decided to pick an artist to focus on. I decided to focus on Taylor Swift. I decided to choose three songs from three different albums. I chose Taylor Swift because her music tells a story to me. I feel as if I took the straightforward way out with the mixtape by choosing the same artist.

The only issue I had with this assignment was because it was hard for me not to add a distinctive touch. In phase 1, I went from analyzing lyrics to my life to drafting a connecting story from the message of music. I researched how artists connect with audiences and realize how they put much more effort into this. I think I should have chosen a variety of artists to analyze unique styles. However, the decision would have been better to get perspective. I feel like I chose Taylor Swift because she appeals to teenage girls or anyone. Swift uses multiple devices to get her audience engaged. I also learned how valuable it is to get other points of view because I was reminded again. That music is a form of art and is subjective. I researched through comments on music videos and reddit posts to see other's meanings on the songs.

This phase was a turning point for me because I really understood the perspective in music. I thought about heartbreaks and struggled not to relate to other sources of media and my personal life to maintain professional. It was difficult at times because I wanted to express my opinion by refraining from it.

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Taylor Swift is a musical genius. Every single one of her songs tells a story, and she uses countless poetic strategies. She delivers a narrative that is hidden underneath layers of figurative language that sounds beautiful to hear. The song “All Too Well (10 Minute Version) (Taylor's Version)” is about a love that she was too young to experience and how she was used throughout the relationship. “Right Where You Left Me” by Taylor Swift discusses heartbreak, how her significant other left her, and how she is unable to move on because it was a crucial time for her. The song “Exile” by Taylor Swift and Bon Iver is the conclusion of a toxic relationship.

The song “All Too Well (10 Minute Version) (Taylor's Version)” uses countless poetic devices include figurative language, an end rhyme and heavily utilizes symbolism. She utilizes figurative language in numerous ways creating similes, metaphors, and imagery. She sings about a relationship that occurred when she became an adult but was not mentally prepared and discusses serious topics, particularly grooming. The song tells a narrative from the young girl's point of view of the relationship, in the beginning of the relationship she feels like it was destiny that brought these two people together. She sings, “Autumn leaves falling down like pieces into place...” this simile compares her relationship to autumn leaves falling because she feels like this relationship was destined to happen and she feels like this relationship is perfect because she believes it is a perfect match. Later, Taylor sings the lyric, “And you call me up again just to break me like a promise So casually cruel in the name of being honest I'm a crumpled-up piece of paper lying here

'Cause I remember it all, all, all too well..," this signifies the drastic change in the relationship and uses a metaphor and a simile to show the aftermath of this relationship. She compares herself to the broken promise and a crumpled-up piece of paper. Throughout the song, she symbolizes how her significant other stole her innocence. She references a scarf throughout the song, which symbolizes her virginity. She sings, "But you keep my old scarf from that very first week 'Cause it reminds you of innocence and it smells like me You can't get rid of it 'Cause you remember it all too well..." The scarf signifies her virginity and how this was a significant moment in her life and how that is the last memory he has of her that cannot be materialized. She paints a picture with imagery of the relationship and how it made her feel in the relationship by singing, "I walked through the door with you the air was cold but something about it felt like home somehow and I, left my scarf there at your sister's house and you've still got it in your drawer even now..." She once again mentions the scarf, showing she "lost" it at her boyfriend's sister's house. Her use of imagery paints an image of the beginning of the relationship versus the beginning. In this song, she utilizes numerous poetic devices to tell a story.

"Right Where You Left Me" by Taylor Swift is a heavy emotional song. This song is for when you are stuck in a place and feel like everyone is moving on without you. She utilizes repetition and imagery to tell a narrative. The narrative she illustrates discusses how she feels like the world is moving on without her. She utilizes lyrics like, "They expected me to find somewhere some perspective, but I sat and stared right where you left me you left me no, oh, you left me no....". She describes her feelings and tells a story about how someone in her life left her behind and she feels forgotten. She utilizes imagery to help continue to illustrate a narrative by using lyrics like, "But I, I'm right where you left me Help, I'm still at the restaurant Still sitting in a corner I haunt Cross-legged in the dim light They say, 'What a sad sight'". She illustrates an image of herself at a restaurant that could symbolize a significant place in the relationship she had with the

person who left her. She paints an image of her being left at a restaurant where people look at her like she is a charity case. Along with imagery, she utilizes repetition to emphasize her feelings to display the narrative more. Swift repeats the lyrics, “You left me no, oh, you left me no you left me no choice but to stay here forever you left me, you left me no...”. She repeats the phrase, “You left me no...” to create an effect like she is still processing it. With these poetic devices, she creates a narrative that she was left at a restaurant by someone she loved and tried to process it, but it happened too quickly for her to process.

Taylor Swift uses juxtaposition and imagery to create a mood in the song “Exile”. She uses two singers in this song to create a mood. This song discusses a relationship that ended because of miscommunication even though these two people were in love with each other but due to conflicts their relationship did not last. Bon Iver’s and Taylor Swift’s voices collide beautifully. They sing, “You didn't even hear me out (you didn't even hear me out) You never gave a warning sign (I gave so many signs)...”. Taylor and Bon’s lyrics hold a mood of conflict. They create an allusion as if they are speaking with each other directly and try to justify the relationship ending by not blaming themselves. Each of their narratives creates a contrast because it holds a side-to-side story of the relationship, which creates the mood of conflict. She continues to create an image with lyrics like, “Now I'm in exile, seein' you out I think I've seen this film before so I'm leavin' out the side door...” This creates the mood of conflict because the audience can picture two people in a great deal of pain, unable to see each other because it is painful and can be seen as a punishment. She describes the aftermath of this relationship as a punishment for seeing each other because it is painful.

The songs “All Too Well,” “Right Where You Left Me,” and “Exile” discuss relationships and the conflicts it suffers. “All Too Well” discusses a relationship at a younger age that she was not old enough mentally to handle and felt taken advantage of. “Right Where You Left Me” discusses how relationships can end quickly and abruptly but can make you feel like you are rooted

to that moment because you are unable to process it. "Exile" is about two people who were in a relationship that did not end well because of miscommunication even though they loved each other it is still a punishment seeing each other out because it was painful how a love ended like that. These three songs discuss three different romances that all end with people going two separate ways.

Phase 2:

Relationships end in heartbreak. Heartbreak is expressed differently because all relationships are different. However, the common factor at the end of all relationships is that you lose that person. Severing a connection is something Taylor Swift writes and sings about very well. She displays three different types of relationships in the songs "All Too Well (10 Minute Version) (Taylor's Version)", "Right Where You Left Me," and "Exile." Swift discusses three different relationships that all ended in heartbreak, and that is why these songs connect so well. She caters to an audience that has suffered the loss of a connection with someone. You don't have to experience love to relate to any of these songs because the lyrics discuss the pain of losing someone close to you. She sings about abandonment, the struggle of moving on, and how a relationship feels from the beginning to the very end. She goes into detail about all these heartbreaks, which appeal to your emotions.

"All Too Well (10 Minute Version) (Taylor's Version)" brings you a perspective on a relationship and how it can make you feel. It displays the ups and downs and shows how quickly it can fall apart. "Right Where You Left Me" discusses abandonment by a loved one, which can be a friend, family member, or significant other. Relationships can end suddenly and sharply, but she explores how you can feel rooted to that moment because you are unable to process it. "Exile" delivers two perspectives of two people who try to move on from a past relationship but can't help but still feel a connection. It describes the pain of moving on because of the attachment you feel. These are all common situations people experience in life.

## Phase 3:

This mixtape tells narratives about different styles of heartbreaks and relationships. I received feedback on my mixtape discussing how, although the three songs are from the same artist, they each have a particular style. Each song has its own genuine feeling. My classmate described my mixtape as unique because, although they discuss the same topic, mine goes into detail about relationships. My other classmate loved my mixtape but wanted me to explain the connection between these songs. All three songs connect because they display three different relationships that ended. "All Too Well" analyzes the breakdown of a relationship that had an age gap. The song discusses how the relationship made her feel and describes how it fell apart so quickly. "Right Where You Left Me" talks about how a relationship ends abruptly and you can't process it. "Exile" is accepting that a relationship is over, but you will also realize that there is still a connection, and it will always be painful to see each other. This mixtape expresses the emotions you deal with when you lose someone. You pick apart the relationship and overanalyze it to see where you went wrong, just like in "All Too Well," because you remember it all too well. Then, you can't process that they left, and it ends because you're stuck in the same place trying to cope with the place where they left you, like "Right Where You Left Me." You're in exile because seeing them apart from you hurts, and you're just trying to move on. This mixtape describes the stages you go through after you go through the loss of a connection.