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English 11000

### Self-Assessment Essay

Music used to be something I would just listen to while completing a task or when I was bored. This semester, the way I viewed music changed. I learned how to analyze music and the rhetorical devices writers utilize to make the music appeal to me. This course taught me how to understand and evaluate art.

I learned that music was much more than a melody mixed with words. This course has taught me how to appreciate the art that goes into music with the help of assignments like our Wednesday Reviews. I would not have discovered new music if it hadn't been for our Wednesday Reviews. We listened to different genres, which gave me a new perspective on music. Listening to different music helped us investigate different genres and gather more background information to help us form opinions. Part of these reviews helped us better understand and use print and digital technologies to reach a wide range of audiences. We researched the artists and what techniques they used to understand their music and how they appealed to their audience.

In my phase 1 literacy narrative, I focused on one song and how it related to my life experiences. In my first assignment, I wrote, "Lianne sings, 'You broke me and taught me to truly hate myself.' The pauses she takes in between some lyrics really helped me empathize and compare my situation with the lyrics. "The pauses made the lyrics sound so meaningful and emotional." I learned how even the silence in music means something and explained how it relates to the audience. What I should've said is that the artist appeals to the audience's emotions because she talks about her own and how she feels. This helps me realize I explore and analyze, in writing and

reading, a variety of genres and rhetorical situations and recognize and practice key rhetorical terms and strategies when engaged in writing situations. When analyzing a song and reviewing its lyrics, you start to pick up on the rhetorical devices, like I did in my phase 1 narrative.

In my phase 2 assignment, I focused on one artist. The assignment was to create a mixtape that tells a story. I decided to focus on my favorite artist, Taylor Swift, and choose songs from different albums to show how each album tells a story. Doing this, I learned how to examine attitudes towards linguistic standards, empower and oppress language users, and develop strategies for reading, drafting, collaborating, revising, and editing. In my phase 2 assignment, I discussed Swift's attitude in her song along with the devices she used. "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, due to conflicts, their relationship did not last." I learned how to analyze and review her music, which makes it more enjoyable to listen to now.

Learning how to analyze music in this course changed me for the better. I now have a better understanding of music. I can now understand why some songs resonate with me so well and realize it's not just the melody alone.