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Professor XXXX

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### Cover Letter

Beginning the writing process for this paper was a struggle for me. I knew what I wanted to write about but I didn't know how to go about doing so. My rough draft was very rough, and I received a lot of good feedback from the revision activities in class. My main goal when trying to revise my essay was to make sure I touched on all the topics required in this paper. I say this because this was the main problem people noticed when reading over my essay. The main points I have added to the paper cover the topics of design, style, and medium of music reviews, that I forgot to mention in the rough draft. I also wanted to make sure my paper flowed well throughout, without any out of place sentences to throw it off. The final thing I did was make sure I didn't have any grammar errors, or sentences that sounded weird. I noticed some sentences that needed to be reworded, so I corrected them, and they really helped the paper overall. I also spotted some sentences that would fit better in a different part of the paper in order to keep the flow in check. Overall I am proud of my first Comp 2 essay, and I'm excited for you to read it!

Analysis of Music Reviews

For this paper I have chosen three separate music reviews from three different styles of music, in hopes of comparing them with each other to find both the similarities and differences they have embedded within each of them. A music review is always written with the purpose to break down a certain artist, song, or album with the intent to provide knowledge and deepen the reader's connection to the culture of music. Music reviews are most commonly written in the digital form of medium, and may include pictures relating to the music being analyzed. My goal of this article is to uncover the hidden tactics and techniques used when writing these reviews that help connect the writing with the reader on an emotional level.

The genre I have decided to dive deeper into is music reviews, which is a piece of writing that breaks down a specific piece of music both subjectively and unbiased. When writing a music review it is important not to make the style too complicated, it should be easy for the reader to understand what you're writing about without having to break the review down further in order to fully comprehend the music. Remember the reader is there to learn more about the confusing lyrics the artist or band wrote, and if your article confuses them even more, it becomes a useless piece of writing. Most forms of music review can be found in the form of articles, and may contain some pictures of the band or artist and the album or song cover spread throughout. These pictures will usually include a small text of who or what the picture is, or when and where the picture was taken. This technique is used to help implement a stronger connection between the reader and music. By reading about a certain artist or band, and then seeing a picture of them right after can really help the reader both visualize and connect with the music on a deeper level.

While brainstorming for this paper I have decided to go with 3 different musical creators, Pink Floyd, The Notorious B.I.G., and Kings of Leon. I chose these creators specifically because I wanted to pick a combination of different music styles and time periods in hopes of adding more

variety and uncovering the different techniques writers use for different genres of music. When breaking down each individual review, it is easy to notice recurring trends within all of them. Each music review I have picked always begins with some background information about the band or artist, and what events have led up to the creation of that specific piece of music being talked about in the review. This technique helps the reader understand a little bit more about who they are reading about, and helps provide some more background knowledge on what events led them to produce the music they do. Some reviews may include the artist's whole life and all the events they've been through, like in, "The Notorious B.I.G. Biography"- written by Steve Huey or, "Kings of Leon Biography and Profile"- written by Tim Grierson. Both Steve and Tim decided to include a complete summary of The Notorious B.I.G. and Kings of Leon life before even mentioning their music. In other cases you may find that the author only talks about events leading up to the album or song they will be talking about, for example in, "PINK FLOYD- The Story of The Dark Side of the Moon"- written by Hardwired Crew. Hardwired included the history of Pink Floyd dating back only a few years before the release of their album, *The Dark Side of the Moon*. By doing so it helps the reader grasp both the meaning of the music, and what events led up to the creation of the album, without including a full life story. Both ways of providing history of the band or artist are effective in their own ways, and help connect the reader to the music review. These varied techniques mostly depend on what the review is talking about, if the review is over the band or artist's career as a whole, it is better to provide more history behind them. On the other hand if the music review is over a specific song or album written, it is better to include only the information needed by the reader to understand the events that lead up to the creation of the piece of music being talked about.

Music reviews always work in chronological order to help keep things simple for the reader. The most common trend I've seen is that writers will pick the artist or bands most hit songs, and break down each one chronologically, adding in history of why they wrote the song, or why they made a song sound a certain way. The author must research the songs they want to include in the review beforehand because it's important to keep a very unbiased opinion when analyzing music. The author must do this in order to fully understand the piece of music which includes breaking down the tone, style, lyrics, and overall sound the music portrays.

When talking about music review it's important to understand the meaning behind them. The purpose of a music review is to provide the desired reader with both an unbiased opinion and proven facts on whether the piece of music is good or not. Authors can achieve this by talking about the tone, style, and sound of the music in a scientific manner. Using an opinion to state whether a piece of music is good or not creates no sense of credibility to the work of music at all, and only hurts the main purpose of the article. Music reviews are targeted for people who are usually already interested in the band or artist, and want to learn more about them. That's why it's important in music review to provide lots of history and events that led the musical creator to write that specific piece of music. This technique helps provide both credibility to the article itself and an emotional appeal to the reader. It's important to keep the review very simple and use vocabulary that isn't too difficult to understand in order to achieve the purpose of a music review. This certain genre is very specific toward reviewing music. It would only be acceptable to use this style in a different genre when talking about someone creating something like a theatrical performance, piece of art, or invention. Music reviews have a very specific layout based on the band or artist being talked about.

By reading this paper I hope that you have grown more accustomed to the genre of music reviews, and you are able to point out the purpose, medium, and style implemented within this genre of writing. It's always important to remember a music review is written with the purpose to break down a certain artist, song, or album with the intent to provide knowledge and deepen the reader's connection to the culture of music. By exposing the hidden techniques, and rules involved with writing a music review, I have provided all the information needed for you to be successful in writing your next music review!

#### Works Cited

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