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## Digital Confessional Free Verse Poetry of the 21st Century

### Step II.

This genre developed from social media users using technology to convey their emotions. The 21st century is an age in which individuals can display their art onto social media platforms to both gain recognition and to advocate awareness. People are able to gain recognition because this platform allows for everyone to view content, and with the same exposure, people are also able to become aware of issues. Digital confessional poetry allows for people to release emotion and create a connection with others. This form of poetry does not have any constraints that can conflict with the flow of the individuals writing. In the age of technology, connection between individuals have weakened, and emotions are manipulated. I have learned that people use technology to create multiple connections with multiple people, however, the connection is weak being that it is usually brief and can easily be manipulated to reflect the desired image of the individual. Some hide behind a computer screen and only display select emotions; there are also individuals that are completely vulnerable on social media and provide a space for people to present authentic emotions. The individuals that are vulnerable or open to expressing certain emotions contribute to this genre. These poets are a part of the gen z generation. Being that social media is pivotal in the lives of this generation, it also becomes a platform to display art. Countless people use technology to present music or photography, and also to present artwork, and writing. A few people including poets have become prosperous through this platform. One well known poet whose career grew from instagram is Rupi kaur. She is known for her bestselling book, "milk and honey". She began posting her work on tumblr, and then she moved to instagram. Her poetry reflected the feelings of the Gen z generation. She would discuss things that related to betrayal, womanhood, relationships etc, things that a growing young

adult could relate. This genre began once technology became more integrated into daily life. In the past people could post writing in magazines and newspapers, however, in this age they would gain more recognition if it is promoted or presented digitally. Being that there is no general format other than it being able to fit in a caption, and is not pages long. A few constraints would be the length and the language. Some explicit or offensive language can be reported on social media and if it is too lengthy, it is less likely to be read. This genre developed by individuals correctly posting their work. There is no individual to have started it. People just began to use social media to present themselves in whatever form they felt most comfortable or necessary. People usually respond or share the text by either posting it on their page or by sending it to other social media users and platforms or to other individuals by SMS. Everything that I have written above is something that I have observed, or done myself. The evidence is observational being that I am a part of the discourse community and the generation and, I also use technology to display some of my emotions. I have become aware of this genre by sharing worked with other individuals or relating to them upon discovery while scrolling through the app. I was able to gather information of the history by watching the internet develop and become more open to texts that advocate or reflect vulnerability, without having to be subtle.

### Step III.

The main message to all of the poems is to remain true to yourself and to be cautious with people. People have the ability to change and, although we should understand and accept people, we must also be able to identify toxic behavior and keep a distance from some. All in all the poetry teaches or reflects on interactions and relationships with ourselves and others. Although they have similar messages, people have different experiences and the message is broad, and individuals come to understand that through countless situations. The only constraint in these poems would be length and language use. The poem can not be too lengthy, otherwise the audience will lose interest. As for language use, explicit or offensive can either result in reporting someone or losing audience members. For this particular individual, it is directed

towards the people in her relationships and also toward anyone whose eye or ears are open to her writing. Her page is a public page so it is open to anyone. The audience is also herself; she uses the space to both present her writing and to release heavy emotions. Being that it is free verse and the length is limited, the poems mold into the format of the space it is in and the style reflects the individual. For this writer, she uses the caption of her post to display her writings and the words are placed in paragraphs because if she places them in stanzas the caption would be long. Occasionally they are placed in stanzas, but not frequently. She sometimes records herself saying it, and the poem then transforms into spoken word, which is verbal poetry. The language varied from poem to poem being that each one may convey a different tone or emotion.

#### Step IV.

The poem that I am analyzing is Samurai's poem that begins with "grief is the final act of love..." The writer's name is Tyler and she is not a well-known poet. Regardless of her reputation, her writing has depth and wisdom that allows a reader to divide and analyze the simple thoughts and actions of people in their relationships. It does not have a negative intention, instead she intends on informing her audience of the true depth of love relating to grief. This grief is about the damage of one's heart and of a piece of one's self. In the poem she drowns herself in alcohol to fill the void in her heart. She stated "In brown liquor I drown... my heart bled. My heart tore all in your name" She describes the emotional pain that one goes through upon breaking up with someone. Then she describes the damage she does to herself as a result of the pain. She becomes wasted and drowns herself in alcohol. To reiterate the message, she states "sad and down. Wasted, in brown liquor I drown." The only constraints in this poem is the length which she controls according to what she wanted to display. Other than the manual constraint to present the piece, her writing was freely written. The rhythm was her choice. Her audience was anyone being that wanted to read her work. Being that I know the audience, I understand that the only discourse community they belong to is being of the technology era, or they could be characterized as avid social media users. This text is of

importance because it is written by someone that the discourse community can relate with and it displays emotions that anyone who's been in intimate relationship can relate to. She is an example of an individual who uses her own vulnerability to set an example to people. She is one of the individuals that provide a space on social media for people to genuinely connect. It is important for people to genuinely connect because we live in an age where connectivity has weakened and multiplied, which causes relationships to lose worth. By providing the space, she reminds people of the relationships we must have or have experiences outside of social media.

### Step VI:

#### Lost

Navigating through a space

Of unfamiliar faces

And unfamiliar places

In need of a guiding hand

Someone capable of standing by my side

A friend to guide me to the end of tunnel

Someone to guide me through the darkness

Someone to help me

For i am lost

#### No Love Greater

A love for someone can be

Conditional or unconditional

One can be in the midst of uncertainty

Of anxiety

with a individual with high toxicity

Sometimes we are unsure of people  
But we must be sure of ourselves  
We must feel calm within ourselves  
And trust ourselves  
Because no love is greater than self love

### Mankind

We treat our brothers and sisters  
Like slaves  
Like animals  
Meanwhile we call them animals  
We cage them  
Their food is placed on the ground  
They are held in chains and confined  
We spit at them  
We shun them  
We look away when they plead  
What has mankind come to?

### Work of art

We are born with a canvas  
Sometimes it is scuffed  
Sometimes distorted  
As we live  
We are illustrated by who we encounter  
We are painted on by our environment

We are erased by our pain

But the residue remains

We displayed by those who adore us

We are knocked down by those who despise us

We are created by the world

All of us

Are a work of art

### Citations:

“Samurai”, Tyler (@writtenbysamurai) “ just writing some shorts” October 27, 2018. Instagram.

“Samurai”, Tyler (@writtenbysamurai) “just some writing exercise playing with words in 2016” October 26, 2018. Instagram

“Samurai”, Tyler (@writtenbysamurai) “ greif is the final act of love... ” April 22, 2019. Instagram.

“Samurai”, Tyler (@writtenbysamurai) “ Timeless” October 27, 2018. Instagram.

Aiko. Jhene (@jheneaiko) “#2 fish” March 16, 2019. Instagram.

“Samurai”, Tyler (@writtenbysamurai) “ ‘black heart’ ” April 21, 2019.. Instagram.

Aiko. Jhene (@jheneaiko) “have you gotten your copy of my poetry book yet? #2 fish 3;16” March 16, 2019. Instagram.

Maimouna (maitalksted\_) “just tryna find me” April 10, 2019. Instagram.

Maimouna (maitalksted\_) “dark skin said you ever felt lonely?” April 22, 2019. Instagram.