Cody Zou

Prof Jewell

English

Final Portfolio

 Revised Literacy Narrative

*My revised literacy narrative has improved in my opinion because I actually have a story to tell. I added a lot of information about how reading and speaking and writing has impacted my life. In my previous essay I just wrote irrelevant information trying to get as many words as possible to fill up the word requirement. I learned how to use more vocabulary and learned how to manage and organize my literacy narrative.*

 Throughout my young life, I have never really enjoyed reading,writing or speaking. When it came to reading, I hated it. I would always be bored and fall asleep when I started to read. Writing was also very boring for me, although I had a lot to write about because I’d always found myself to be a unique individual with individualistic thoughts. As a kid I was always a big mouth, I would literally talk about everything and gossip about everything. But as time went on and I grew up I started to become very shy and very antisocial and I hated speaking out and in the public.

 Although I never really enjoyed reading,writing or speaking, I knew how important it was for me and my future and my goals. My feelings toward reading writing and speaking all changed for the better when I got a job for a company called catalyst Verizon Fios. So when it came to this job at Verizon, I am a sales associate, I go from door to door and I need to use my speaking skills to try to pitch and influence customers to change there internet service to Verizon. It is a commission job, and depending on the amount of sales I would make, I can earn money. This greatly motivated me to go to as many doors as possible so I can practice my speaking skills. This Job has affected me in my reading, writing and speaking skills drastically. My manager Nachi influenced me to start reading books because reading would help me learn more when it came to speaking and pitching. At first I wasn't going for it because at that time I didn't see any reason to read, but I ended up giving it a try. A book that I started reading that has pretty much changed my life when it comes to reading, writing and speaking is the book “The way of the wolf” by Jordan Belfort. I remember when I first started this job at Verizon Fios, in the beginning I was struggling, I even thought about quitting because I wasn't making any money as this job is commission based. I was really shy and my talking skills were extremely poor, I just didn't know how to communicate with people. But as time went on I got better at pitching and talking, most of the reasons for that is because of the book.

This book has had a great impact on my interest in reading now and how I talk, as I learned more about the art of sales and how to sell. This job allows me to interact with as many people as humanly possible, always making me strive for more excellent service. I would like to master the art of selling in hopes of one day becoming a business owner myself with my own sales associates. I've learned that reading more has made my brain more healthy. Reading helps me relieve stress now as I know that from reading books I can always learn something new and helpful for my life.

 Annotated Bibliography Revised

 *My revised annotated bibliography is much better than my older one now in my opinion. feel like in my old one most of my bibliographies were summaries. Now I feel like they are all analysis as I go into detail on why these albums are good according to these sites.*

Rolling stone My Beautiful Dark twisted Fantasy

According to Rolling Stones the Album “My Dark Beautiful Twisted Fantasy” by Kanye West is one of the most influential albums ever and is great. The writer Rob Shieffielld claims that no other artist could have made this album. This album is coasting on heroic levels of dementia, pimping on top of Mount Olympus they say. Many of the audience who review music albums would come to agree with this album review because of the overall great reviews this album has gotten. The writer says this album is a mixture of multiple genres of music from hip hop to RNB. The author says he broke the rules of making of a hip hop album. As he combines many elements of music together. Overall from all these statements the author tries to prove that this is Kanye's best album yet.

Sheffield,Rob.My Dark Beautiful twisted fantasy.The rolling stone <https://www.rollingstone.com/music/music-album-reviews-Beautiful-dark-twisted-fantasy>November 25,2010 5:45 AM ET

Pitchfork The Life of Pablo

 According to pitchfork the album “The life of pablo” is unique to Kanye West's other projects but shows value on why it is a great album. It has freewheeling energy that is infectious to the discography of music. The writer Jayson Greene compares Pablo Picasso and Kanye West and claims that they have many similarities when it came to this project and Pablo Picasso's projects. The album supposedly doesn't have many major statements like his earlier projects but is more diverse which the newer audience in music would enjoy. Instead of worrying about a theme Kanye wanted the concept of the album to be top notch the writer Greene claims. Many of the audience would agree to these claims because of how diversity good the album is. Overall Pitchfork would say that the album The Life of Pablo was diverse and very creative, and very good

Greene,Jayson,The Life of Pablo. Pitch Fork [https://pitchfork.com/reviews/albums/21542-the-life-of-pablo](https://pitchfork.com/reviews/albums/21542-the-life-of-pablo/)  February 16, 2016

Genius Graduation

According to Genius, the album “Graduation by Kanye West” is near perfect as they gave the album a 95/100 rating. This means that the album is spectacular. The writer Sweatman claims that this album has a lot of popularised electronic sounds which a lot of people enjoyed listening to around the time. The writer has many different feelings about different songs, all which is positive. He thinks that the song “stronger” is the biggest hit and many of the audience listening to music would tend to agree with him. He also brings up that Kanye crushed 50 cents. He crushed 50 cent in album sales and basically made 50 cent retire. Many of the styles in this album is very different which was different and good. Many of the audience that review albums would agree with these statements. Overall This album is one of the greatest rap and hip hop albums of all time from genius’s aspect.

Sweatman,Graduation. Genius <https://genius.com/discussions/244781-Graduation-by-kanye-west-review> Posted 3 years ago

 Billboard Yeezus

Billboard claims that the album “Yeezus” by Kanye West lived up to the hype and was overall a good album. According to billboard “Yeezus” is a medley of several genres -- new wave, punk, rock, and of course hip-hop. The writer billboard says the album has many vintage soul sounds and is very different from what the audience expected, all though it was new it was different and a lot of the audience enjoyed the sounds. The author says part of the album is about love. Majority of the album is mostly directed to the naysayers as he is angry while making the music. The author also claims that Kanye pronounced himself as the Michael Jordan of hip hop. Songs are different but have many of the same production like “hold my liquor” and “new slaves”. The roll out of the album was very unorthodox. Overall this album was just different with new songs but the concept is great and is well put together and the majority of the audience who review albums would agree, according to Billboard.

Billboard,Yeezus. Billboard<https://www.billboard.com/articles/review/1567053/kanye-west-yeezus-track-by-track-review>June 14, 2013

 Variety Jesus is King

 According to Variety, The album “Jesus is King” continues flashes of inspiration and is divine although they claimed that the album isn't very strong isn't that good. The writer “Andrew Barker” says this album was heavily delayed and the fans were complaining. The album thoroughly is not very good the writer says. The only way you would enjoy the album is if you have a relationship with Kanye. This album has no cuss words and is gospel, which many fans didn't like. Kanye used creating this album to connect with god the writer claims. This album was very highly anticipated and he uses a lot of bible verses while rapping. A lot of the audience that review albums would tend to agree. Overall according to the variety, this album is not very good and is one of the weakest projects kanye has dropped.

Barker, Andrew, Jesus is King. The Variety[https://variety.com/2019/music/reviews/kanye-west-jesus-is-king review-1203384481/](https://variety.com/2019/music/reviews/kanye-west-jesus-is-king-review-1203384481/)October 26,2019 6:03 AM PT

Rolling Stones College Drop Out

According to the rolling stones Kanye West made his name off of this album as this album is considered to be great. Many of the audience would tend to agree because it is his debut album. According to the writer “Jon Caramanica” he says that this album has a lot of pop,soul, and gospel to it. With hit songs like “All Falls Down” this album is considered a classic. There were a lot of A listed artist that helped Kanye and fans loved the artists that helped him. Some of the artists that were guests were Jay Z. This Album showed the skill that Kanye had in Music. From production to be mixing drums according to Caramanica. Many of the audience who review albums would agree that Overall this album is great and is the reason why Kanye is where he is today.

Caramanica,Jon, The College Dropout. Rolling Stones<https://www.rollingstone.com/music/music-album-reviews/college-dropout-255465/>March 4,2004 5:00 AM ET

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 Audience and analysis revised

*Overall, I put in a lot of work for this piece of writing. I added a couple of points on what my audience should do and partake in. I also organized everything as I put everything in paragraphs to make everything makes more sense.*

Dear NBA fans

 There is a big problem that NBA fans do not know of when it comes to its community. Players and prospects and highly recruited 5-star high school athletes don’t have their own right to join the NBA instantly. Instead, they have to go play basketball in the NCAA for a year or play a year of professional basketball in the G League (development league for players) or play professional basketball overseas in countries like Spain, Greece, China, etc.

Although it is banned for a high school player to go straight to the NBA right now, that can change. Throughout history, there have been 45 players to go straight to the NBA after college. This rule was created at the start of the 2006-2007 NBA season. Players were coming in at the age of 18 at that time, and the NBA felt like that was too young so they made the rule. Us, fans should try to do something about this. If we can bring up the discussion on social media posts, the NBA would for sure look into a change for sure. The more we protest the better chance these kids will have to go straight to the NBA.

The rule is absurd to me because if you are talented enough you shouldn’t waste a year of your career. Now when it comes to the NCAA, that is the biggest reason why this rule is bad. The NCAA and the universities are generating thousands to millions from these players as they earn not a single penny from it. Players and stars like RJ Barrett are highly recognized by fans all over the world but when fans pay for merchandise like jerseys etc they don’t make anything off it. This is a devastating blow for the players because, in the NBA, you make money off that. The NCAA is selfish when it comes to the players. For example, Basketball players are much wealthier if they hadn't gone to college for a year. When you’re in college you don't get paid off your name the team gets paid off you. Your jerseys and tickets sales all go to the college and NCAA. If basketball players went straight pro they would have had a guaranteed NBA contract worth millions. NCAA also bans students from getting sponsorships and endorsement deals.In some other cases, NCAA athletes also are banned from signing agents.

There are some Basketball players who need financial support immediately and going to college to play for a year denies them a chance of getting millions of dollars of support. An example would be LeBron James he had an option in 2003 to go pro or play in the NCAA and he decided to go pro and with that he signed a 90 million dollar Nike endorsement deal which automatically had him set for life pretty much at the age of 18, now imagine he went to college instead and he suffered a catastrophic injury that could end his career, that would have cost him close to 100 million dollars. Now NBA fans let's go in together and fight to get this rule overturned. We should all come together and protest games and have the highschool players protest too.

Dear NBA and NCAA commissions

 NBA and NCAA commissions, High School basketball prospects should have their own right as an 18 year old grown man to decide whether or not he wants to go play in the NBA or develop in NCAA basketball or play overseas. What you guys, the NCAA commission is doing is absurd to me and with the NBA banning high school prospects to come straight to the NBA, you the NBA commission are hurting the future of your own stars who can potentially build your brand.

What the NCAA is doing is unacceptable to me for their basketball athletes. The NCAA consumes over one billion dollars and you do not pay your student athletes a single penny. Banning players from agents and endorsement deals, players will have a hard time earning money. What the NCAA should start doing is start paying these players because at the end of the day the players are the reasons why fans come to the games to watch. Now this has a significant impact on high school prospects for many reasons. For example a high school player could be one of the best in the world in his age group, but can be financially struggling with his family, imagine he suffers a catastrophic injury playing in college. That could likely end the players hopes and dreams to play in the NBA and make millions of dollars with team contracts and personal endorsement deals. Start paying the players or give back, this will be beneficial for all because kids will be getting paid while making the NCAA a ton of money.

Earlier this year Zion Williamson, an already global icon almost ended his basketball career playing in the NCAA, trying to build his brand. This could have caused him millions of dollars and a once in a lifetime chance to go to the NBA. Now imagine if he went straight to the NBA he would be dominating the league and making millions of dollars. Now I understand why the NCAA won't allow players to make money off jersey sales etc, and that's because they need money for schools. But why not let these college athletes get their own endorsement deals from the likes of Nike and Adidas. College basketball players should be allowed to have their own endorsements and sign their own agents.

 Now when it comes to the NBA, wouldn't these high school prospects generate more attention and views for your ratings. A perfect example for this is LeBron James. Back in 2003 when you had the right to go straight to the NBA after high school, LeBron went straight to the NBA and signed a 90 million dollar endorsement deal, imagine had he went to college because it was a rule and got injured. If you allow these high school prospects to go straight to your league it's a win win for everyone. The fans will be more interested and that will generate more money and views and the players will develop much quicker and be better, as the players will go up against far superior competition.

 The best options for all sides would be for high school basketball players to have the option of playing in college while getting paid for it, or having the option to ultimately go straight to the NBA. Now the NBA and NCAA commissions, please let this happen as it will benefit the most for your current and future prospects and basketball players.

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April 13 2015

 Personal experience essay

Throughout my life, I never really had any significant reading or writing moments that I can remember of. Although nothing was really significant I remember working very hard on my college essay last year. It was very hard for me to start the essay, as I didn’t know what to start with nor did I have a topic. I remember struggling for a whole week in my school library after school brainstorming. After I talked to my friend, we eventually got a topic for me to write about, although I don’t want to share it. I was stressing when I first started my essay because I felt like I was a basic and boring person. But even if I am, I still had many interesting events that I shared. The hardest part for me when it came to writing this essay was definitely the introduction. After the introduction, everything was smooth from my body to the conclusion. It took me well over two weeks to finish this essay as I revised it several times. When I finished the essay I remember not being very confident about it. So I went to my English teacher from sophomore year, I remember clear as day when he read my essay he enjoyed it very much. That made me feel confident. Overall when I finished my whole college essay I was so relieved after weeks of stress for an essay. Although I might not have a lot of significant moments from reading to writing the college essay that I wrote was very prevalent to me.

This piece of writing is a personal experience essay that I wrote in the beginning of the semester. This is a prime example on how I grew as a writer. In this piece of writing in my opinion, I added a lot of irrelevant information that should not have been included. I said I was a boring person but as I think about it, that is a false statement. After thinking and being more open minded I realize that I am a unique person with unique thoughts. I feel like if I were to rewrite this essay I would add more details and experiences that I had. Overall I chose this piece of writing to show how I grew as a writer because this was the first official assignment I did for this class.

Rhetorical analysis

There are a lot of reasons to why many believe Kanye West is the artist of the 21st century. He is undeniably one of the most talented artists of all time. From his music production to his lyrics and his success in the fashion industry. In the article “Is Kanye West the greatest artist of the 21st century” by USA today's Patrick Ryan, he states that Kanye will never miss the opportunity to be great. He says He backs up his bold claims like him being a genius. From album to album sales he is always at the top

Ok, now look here, This is another piece of writing that I wrote earlier in the semester where I feel like I did a very poor job. This writing is very short and boring. I was supposed to choose a genre and analyze it but instead I just talked about why Kanye West is the greatest artist of the 21st century. I didn't add detail noor followed the prompt. I know for a fact that now I wouldn't make these mistakes because now I know what a rhetorical analysis is and I now put more time to review the prompt to focus on what to write.

 Letter

Dear Professor Jewell,

Throughout this course and semester I have grown exponentially overall as a student. I

am a more fluent reader, a more creative writer and a better overall thinker and speaker now. My growth has been amazing and that is very prevalent for my future goals. All in all, there have been many reasons why I have grown into the best that I can be. From in school work and writing essays and reports to me working outside of school. Everything I have done has helped me. I remember when I first came into the class on the 27th of August this year, I was shy and my reading,writing,and speaking skills were bad. But you Professor Jewel pretty much gave me more confidence to be in class discussions and be a better overall reader and speaker with our readings from the books. What helped me most when it came to reading was the book packet that we purchased in the beginning of the semester. At first I didn't like to read and felt like it was boring, but after many reasons like finding a job and being in class having discussions, I had a wonderful experience reading from the packet as I learned a lot. My favorite reads from the readings that were about Dr Martin Luther King and Malcolm X. They both helped think outside of the box when it came to learning and thinking. Being able to write a literacy narrative now is important and helpful for me. I remember the first literacy narrative that I wrote was bad, I tried to put unnecessary information to make my writing longer and I didnt even have an idea or a story. But after I revised it I put everything together and now I feel like I am a better writer overall and when it comes to literacy narratives. When it came to the Anti bibliographies, my first version were mostly summaries. After I looked back at it, I feel like I did a terrible job on it, I feel like it was rushed too now. I had to look everything back and I knew I had to make them all into analysis, I added some information that made more sense when it came to the articles and I removed relevant information that didn't need to be included and I feel like that is what I accomplished. The audience and analysis assignment I would consider to be my strongest piece of work. Although I thought it was good, everything can be better and what I did to do that is make it more clear and put more emphasis when it came to my audience. This is important because the material was mostly strictly for the audience. A piece that I chose that showed my growth as a writer is the personal experience essay. This piece showed my growth because of the type of thinker I was. In the beginning of the semester I didn't really put into what I wrote, that is why that essay is poor. As the semester went on I improved everyday and this goes back to show you how much better I am now ( an example is the literacy narrative ). The final piece of writing I chose to show my growth is the rhetorical analysis. The assignment was an analysis and I made a summary. Honestly I don't know what I was thinking but I can guarantee now that If I were to redo it again I will know the differences between a summary and an analysis. Overall, I want to thank you Professor Jewell for a great semester and also thank you for the growth and improvements that I experienced in your class.