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ENG1101

Unit 3: Writing in a New Genre

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Reflection

The genre I decided to choose is street art. Street art is a form of artwork that is displayed on public buildings, streets, trains, and other publicly viewed surfaces. Street art comes in many forms such as graffiti, 3D sculptures, poster art, etc. The reason why I chose this genre is because it brings a creative, unique way to portray the realities of hunger and malnutrition. Street art advocates for positive change and social empathy. Because street art has a long history of political expression and activism that creates awareness, I want to construct something that will challenge my target audience which are politicians and government leaders. They don't see the struggle that everyone else goes through. As for individuals who suffer from food insecurity, individuals who know the feeling of not knowing when their next meal is coming, they'll be able to see the art and instantly know that they're not alone through these troubling times and that change is needed. I feel as though politicians do not know or are not aware of what is going on in our communities. They only see what is in front of them and they don't see the realities of what happens outside their perception of the world. Like most policymakers, they are only concerned with agendas they are pushing, and legislation that benefits them and others in higher positions yet fail to fight for individuals where there is not as much help, where every day is a fight for survival compared to the shiny cars and plates full of food that have the powerful few that run

our countries. Even with an understanding of hunger in our communities, there is still pushback. There is still a reason to not want to fight for what is right because there will always be a money problem, whether on a level of each individual who suffers to our government that could potentially help us for the better. Simply put every country is in some shape or form of debt, and a huge area of concern is sadly having to find the room for these expenses to make a change. Another assumption or concern is whether will people take advantage of the help, and participate in ways of greediness and gluttony, still keeping others down while certain few people who find an advantage in these communities prosper. When we look at certain genres and stories there are certain characteristics or traits. These five traits that are unique to the genre I chose are firstly, being able to witness and visually see it. We get so skewed by words on a screen and segments on the news. There is so much fear in the world but when we see it in a different outlet it makes it easier for people. Second, you can interpret the art in ways that are meaningful to you and in a way you understand. Third, the purpose of street art is to enhance or beautify the urban environment. Urban environments are not easy on the eyes. There are no mansions, and no views like you would have in upscale neighborhoods or nice parks. Also, when in a less fortunate area it's distinguishable. Streets are a vessel to unleash beauty in forms that are affordable to those in these areas. There is no money for canvases, no support from others, and no someone who would take time to look if you worked on your own and tried showing it on your own. In a public area where street art is presented, people look on their terms and find something to enjoy about it. They see the beauty in what's created. Fourth, it is short and sweet. You understand the story being told. You are not stuck reading lengthy articles that have a slow buildup to finally getting to the point at the end of the article. There is no useless information that does not correlate to the story. Lastly, artists can show their perspective on what's happening. Everyone sees things

differently, but this gives a chance to see something in someone else's point of view aside from your interpretation. The piece I created symbolizes the issue of inflation and how it affects hunger and malnutrition. The hands display those who are going through food insecurity while the cracked plate exemplifies the problems the world is facing that politicians have yet to fix. All the money that is falling out of the cracked plate demonstrates that we're lacking money. To fit the characteristics of graffiti, I decided to write "Inflation" in graffiti to show the significance of the art form. My mentor piece is <https://www.concern.net/news/nothing-kills-like-hunger-mural-irish-famine>. The point of view of this piece is written from two different perspectives. One is from the Irish famine point of view while the other was inspired by growing up in South Sudan through famine. Famine is a scarcity of food. I believe it's relevant to what I'm trying to portray. People are going hungry and are unable to afford food because of inflation, which has made it more expensive. My artwork would undoubtedly be shown in a place where it may reach those who experience food insecurity.