

Example of Student Writing – Initiating College Ready

Throughout time, music has made an impact to its listeners and to society as well.

"Pastime Paradise" and "Gangsta's Paradise" have both made an impact and have also changed society, culture, and the music industry. Not only did they make those types of changes, but they became 2 of the most memorable songs in the music industry and it helped people understand the primary message the singers were trying to convey. The message Stevie Wonder's "Pastime Paradise" was trying to make is that for people to stop living in the past and even though a lot has happened in the past, to look forward to the future. The message of the song was basically its purpose and for it to unite people despite what has happened.

The song was made in 1976 and the time period of the song is one of the components that helped make the song successful. The influencing events that influenced the song's making, is what strengthened the song even more. It accomplished that mostly because it made the listeners understand and comprehend the purpose of the song. Why this song was made was mainly because Stevie wanted his message to be comprehended by people and he wanted people to realize and attempt to forget the past and simply move on. Moreover, the message Coolio's "Gangsta's Paradise" was trying to make is that life in the streets is a difficult journey some people have to burden with and that most people raised in the streets are forced into delinquency because of their circumstances their living in. Also the message Co olio was trying to convey was that living under those conditions has made people numb to it and that's why people are forced to reckon with becoming someone their not. Therefore the songs purpose was to describe the life on the streets and its implications placed upon individuals living there. The time period of this song was in the 90's and there were a lot of

Comment [1]: Essay uses broadly sweeping statements that attempt to sound grandiose but end up saying nothing at all. Essay should say something specific and draw the reader to a key point, rather than just creating placeholders for content.

Comment [2]: This sentence is unclear and redundant: it suggests that the song helps people understand what the song is trying to convey. The pronoun "it" does not have a clear referent.

Comment [3]: Grammar and mechanics issues in some sentences get in the way of conveying the essay's points.

Comment [4]: This sentence lacks specificity. A student should clearly indicate what the specific message of the song is and should avoid the common mistake of saying that the author's purpose was to inform people of a message, without detailing what the message is. Incorporating text from the song would be helpful in communicating the message of the song.

events taking place around that time frame. The social considerations were poverty-stricken neighborhoods, gun violence, and drugs.

So basically the time period and the social considerations of this song are components that made the song successful and it helped gain the popularity the singer sought out for it. Why this song was made is probably because Coolio wanted to make the listeners understand what it's like living in the streets and how it changes a person. Both "Gangsta's Paradise" and "Pastime Paradise" caused a revolution and it surely did have listeners relate to it. Of course the songs have different purposes but they do have one thing in common and that was for it to cause an impact in society.

Moreover "Amish Paradise" by Weird Al Yankovic is basically a parody of Coolio's "Gangsta's Paradise" and it mainly talks about the Amish people and their lifestyles. The purpose of the song was to describe the Amish people, their roles in society, and how they basically lived. The message of the song is the same as its purpose and helped the listeners understand more about the Amish people and their lifestyles. This song and "Gangsta's Paradise" both have the same purpose which was to describe the lifestyles of the people living in their society. But not only did it describe that but it also describes the implications of living in their society and how it changed the way they lived.

My overall opinion of these songs is that they each convey a message to its listeners and it creates a better understanding of the conditions their living in. A "Pastime Paradise" and "Gangsta's Paradise" have a more significant meaning to them and not only did it help the listener understand the message of the song but it had an impact in society. It changed the outlook/perspectives of certain aspects that were going on at the time and it caused a realization of the painful truth that society has to burden with.

Comment [5]: This is an opportunity for students to list specific events they have uncovered in their initial research. This sentence and the following examples are too vague.

Comment [6]: For most songs, the purpose would be to have an impact; so, the task of the student would be to indicate what kind of impact the author wanted to have and on whom.

Comment [7]: This paragraph needs a transition that introduces the new song.

Comment [8]: This is another example of several grammar mistakes within one sentence resulting in a loss of focus and detracting from the essay's message. In addition, a student's opinion should be whether or not the songs accomplished their purpose, not whether or not the songs convey a message.

Assessment

Strengths

The essay does try to incorporate the time period, the influences of the time, and the impact of these events of the song. It then attempts to link all of these events to the song's purpose, with mixed results. The essay begins to analyze the effectiveness of the song and how the content helped the songwriter accomplish his purpose.

Opportunities for Improvement

Although the response makes some good points, it does not spend enough time developing these points and proving them. It lacks specific examples and needs to pay attention to sentence-level mechanics. To be college ready, a student would have to pull samples from the text to support their statements and then show how these examples illustrate their points. To offer a statement that the song influences people to believe a certain way is to offer opinion. Opinions need to be substantiated in truth, so writers have to build their proof with facts from the text. Then, they need to show how these samples prove the point they are trying to make, and further, how this proof leads the reader to an understanding about an implied idea, such as the song's intended purpose. This sample skips these steps and expects the reader to go to those levels of interpretation through faith. Also, the author needs to devote some time to editing.

Overall

This essay is **Initiating College Ready** because it meets some of the requirements and begins to draw conclusions, but it needs much more development, support through text examples, and editing.

The Scoring Sheet that accompanies this CRA is designed to assess the student's performance throughout the CRA, so here are some example skills and scores based only on this final essay:

Exceeding College Ready (4): Substantially exceeds the performance expectations
College Ready (3): Shows proficiency in all of the performance expectations
Approaching College Ready (2): Meets only some of the performance expectations
Initiating College Ready (1): Does not yet meet the performance expectations

FOUNDATIONAL SKILLS	Instructor's Score
Writing Across the Curriculum (writes clearly and coherently using standard writing conventions; composes and revises drafts)	1
Research Across the Curriculum (evaluates the validity and reliability of sources; synthesizes and organizes information effectively; designs and presents an effective product)	1
SOCIAL STUDIES STANDARDS	Instructor's Score
Diverse Human Perspectives and Experiences (explores the issues of multicultural societies; examines factors that influence personal and group identities, e.g. race, ethnicity, gender, etc.)	2
Analysis, Synthesis, and Evaluation of Information (performs critical examinations of all sources; uses established research methods; reaches conclusions supported by evidence)	1
Effective Communication (uses clear and coherent communication; attributes ideas and information to source materials)	1