

Collection of Evidence 2

Performance Assessments to Verify Credit in Writing

Achievement Level: Pass/Advanced

This collection of student writing should be used in conjunction with the VDOE-provided annotation and the *Performance Level Descriptors (2017)* to evaluate collections of evidence and determine if a verified credit in writing is to be awarded.

Good afternoon music listeners. This is [redacted] coming to you today yet again with another artist recommendation that you should know. If you are joining us today for the first time, here is a little about me. I am a [redacted]-year-old YouTube vlogger and I do a series on different topics which I try my best to inform you all about. I enjoy playing or watching sports and listening to music. I have listened to deep explicit rappers in a response to one of you asking why I do not listen to this rap. For those who do not know, the point of “deep rap” is to give the rapper a way to take a story, whether it is real or made up, and turn it into a perspective that many people who listen to their music, can understand. Today, I will inform you of the best “deep rapper” in the game today.

So let’s first address the problem which exists between artists and media/news who critique their music. As humans, we often seek others’ opinions before seeing for ourselves. The problem with this is that more often than we admit, our opinions are then often based on someone else’s opinion. So with the media and the news saying that rap songs with explicit lyrics are bad for children for whatever reason, makes parents often believe that rap songs with curse words or person views on topics are not okay for children’s ears. However, I am here not to argue that explicit lyrics give the song’s meaning and rhythm and depth but to argue about how after listening to multiple different artists for weeks on end; I have finally come down to a conclusion. Amir Parker, known in the rap game as “Omelly”, is the best rapper in the “deep rap” game because he uses his choice of words to create depth or feeling of which he longs for his audience to understand.

Starting with one of his best songs “Go Harder,” he says, “I’m really bustin’ beer from all the [redacted] that I did.”¹ In this he is saying that all the things he did when he was younger, is

¹ “Go Harder.” *Genius*, 12 Dec. 2018, genius.com/Omelly-go-harder-lyrics. Accessed 4 Dec. 2019.

coming back to haunt him and he has to resort to alcohol to control it. With that in mind, if we do not know someone now, we will one day know someone who drinks excessively to get things off of their mind. He then goes onto saying, “They gave my dawg a life sentence, made me think smarter.”² When you think about what he means by the first part, you automatically turn your attention to “life sentence”. Which most people know, but if you don’t, is a reference to a kind of punishment you may receive from a judge and/or jury on how serious a crime you commit. So understanding that now, we have to put the piece together with the rest of the sentence. He says that the court system gave his dawg, which means homeboy or best friend, a life sentence, which made him think smarter. With this we can take it into many ways. Does he mean he had to think about covering his tracks? Or is he saying he has to look at his current actions and do it the smartest way possible to minimize the chance of him getting caught to the max? Either way you take it, he is trying to warn us of something. He is trying to tell his audience to watch their tracks and learn from other mistakes to keep yourself from making the same. That deep, explicit, feeling is in his lyrics and he paints his words to a picture for all people who listen to his “artwork.” Everything he raps about in this song is deep and it really speaks to how much explicit music is not just used to be used and how he is the absolute best at what he does.

With this in mind, I encourage you all to go out and listen to him for yourself. Tell me if you think im wrong or right. Think about if his lyrics are used appropriately. However, whichever you choose, either to analyze his music or listen to his music, do not think wrong of it at first. Listen to a few of his songs and then make a conclusion. He is the best and you need to listen to him and follow him through his journey as a rapper. He will not just give his fanbase music to listen to, he creates a family as we all know how he feels.

² “Go Harder.” *Genius*, 12 Dec. 2018, genius.com/Omelly-go-harder-lyrics. Accessed 4 Dec. 2019.

In 2018, there were around 187,600 musicians and singers in the United States (“Musicians”). With new technology, it is very easy for me to listen to all of these artists’ work on the go by downloading their music onto my phone. Although, most singers and musicians do not receive much of any payment if their music is downloaded via iTunes, Spotify, Pandora, etc. I try my hardest to buy artists’ albums on a CD or vinyl because this usually gives them a much larger income that will allow them to keep creating their art! I would deeply appreciate it if I was provided with the money to go towards a new music player so that I can continue to support my favorite artists and listen to my music at home. My two preferred versions of music players are the Audio-Technica AT-LP60 turntable (Leong) or the Sony ZSRS60BT CD Player (“10 Best”). I have thoroughly researched both of these options to verify that they would best suit my needs and wants, and I would be very content with either the turntable or CD player!

The first variety of music player that would allow me to extend my music collection is a turntable. According to Lewis Leong, the Audio-Technica AT-LP60 is one of the “best turntables of 2019.” This product would be a good fit for me and the space. It is fairly compact and it is silver, which would look sleek in any area of our home. The Audio-Technica AT-LP60, according to reviews on Amazon, is supposed to be very easy to use and practically fool-proof, especially since it is automatic. That way, we won’t spend money on a new piece of technology, just for me to break it when I am learning how to use it. It is also only \$99 on Amazon, which is extremely inexpensive for a turntable. Unfortunately, this low cost may cause some malfunctions after a couple of months, but it is the perfect product for us to jam to our vinyls and for me to continue my record collection!

The Sony ZSRS60BT CD Player would be another great option for a music player for me. This boombox would look nice in our house too, with its black color and compact size. This CD player is only \$98 on Amazon, already \$1 cheaper than the turntable, and if we were to purchase it used, it would be even less expensive! I have had a Sony CD player since I can remember, and it's lasted me until now, so I would assume that this piece of technology would last a while. You do get what you pay for though. Many reviews on Amazon said that the sound was good and that it can be very loud, but it does not have any tone control. As a family that pays attention to the quality of music, this could be an issue. There were also many less good reviews on the CD player than the turntable. There is a large possibility that the USB connection will not function. This would not be a huge deal, but a music player that has all of its functioning parts would be nice, no matter the cost.

There are arguments that CD player's quality is better than turntable's. Dust can get in the grooves of a vinyl and cause crackles that aren't meant to be there, while CDs are able to ignore dust on the disc ("Does Music"). Although, quality is a very important factor to me when looking into a new music player, the crackles of a record are a pro to me. Turntables have the ability to make you feel like the music is being played live because it isn't necessarily perfect. I think that even though CD players are often more convenient, turntables have the superpower of transporting you into the music.

Both a CD player or turntable has the ability to assist me on my journey to support my favorite musicians, but my preferred choice of the two would be the turntable. The turntable provides tones that every music lover can enjoy, including the rest of the family! It is also only one dollar more than the CD player, but the turntable has a significantly less amount of bad reviews compared to the CD player and is more likely to work consistently. I think that this music player

will do a great job of bringing together the family and expanding our record collection. The Audio-Technica AT-LP60 turntable would not only be a terrific new piece of technology for me but also for our family.

Works Cited

Please note that hyperlinks provided by the student as part of the original writing sample may no longer work.

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Ever since the creation of the internet on a global scale, there have always been disputes about web privacy. Especially in today's age, people are asking themselves if it's worth it to give up their personal information for certain online benefits. In one 2010 article, there are arguments stating that internet tracking is a violation of basic privacy. However, there are many benefits to having increased accessibility on the internet. I disagree with Nicholas Carr's *Tracking is an Assault on Liberty* because the internet was created as a helpful tool and should be used in that way and personal privacy is a sacrifice that is needed in order to satisfy the needs and wants of human beings.

The internet was created as a helpful tool and should be used in that way. It should not be used as a weapon to steal people's personal information. In his article, Carr mentions that it would be devastating if the internet fell into the wrong hands. He stated, "Powerful data-mining tools are available not only to legitimate corporations and researchers, but also to crooks, con men, and creeps." (Carr, 2010). While Carr has a point by showing that in the wrong hands, the internet could be used as a dangerous weapon, he has forgotten that the internet was not created to be abused because it was originally created to aid government military operations and was later adapted as a tool to serve humankind (Andrews, 2013). The issue, in this case, is not the internet, but the people that wish to abuse the internet by turning it into a weapon. This shows that because the internet was invented as a tool, it's up to the user to act responsibly on the internet and use it as an aid.

Personal privacy is a sacrifice that is needed in order to satisfy the needs and wants of human beings. In Carr's article, he talks about how every single action taken on the internet is placed in digital records, whether people like it or not. Carr uses this idea to demonstrate the negative connotation of internet hacking by explaining how the web "stalks" the user. However, the accuracy and power of the internet are actually used to appeal to the user's desires. For example, I personally experienced internet tracking when I was watching a video on YouTube about women's soccer. I refreshed to the home page and more videos relating to the women's soccer team appeared in the recommended section. At first, it was alarming to see that what I was doing was not private, but the more I thought about it, the more I realized that the internet was simply trying to appeal to my preferences as a user. This shows that certain personal privacies have to be sacrificed in order to have conveniences on the internet.

I cannot agree with Nicholas Carr's article *Tracking is an Assault on Liberty* because the internet was created as a helpful tool that can serve millions of people at a time and should only be used in that way. Personal privacy is also a sacrifice that is needed in order to satisfy the wants and needs of human beings because, in exchange for personal information, the web can accumulate details and predict what preferences are wanted based on the searches and clicks of the user. With every refresh, the internet is advocating for the better future of humankind by giving consumers the wants and needs that the web was programmed to provide.

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