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BA Acting

1000 Words of an Update

Intro—What I've Done So Far

I'm just going to get the little pity party over with immediately. I have been dealing with some emotional problems due to the fact that I was on Hormone Replacement Therapy (HRT) for a year in the US, and now I am not. This is the main contributing to the lack of communication, sporadic work flow, and general apathy. I'm starting with this to basically tell you that I have been better, and I can be better. I am actively looking into student counseling, and I hope to ground myself and get into a rhythm with my independent project work over the holidays. Sorry about my general demeanor, on to the actual paper.

My biggest hurdle through what I've done is coming to terms with the lack of a spark in my topic. I knew I had a desire to follow through and find something in that area to research and write about, but the more time I spent with the topic the less I clicked with it. So now I'm here, with a new idea, the same research, and a hope to pull through.

Where I'll Go Next

I'm going to do this shit. I have a short plan of action that will play into a larger plan. I've started on my outline, I've started on my research, and I have a plan.

Developing Plan. I have a decent idea of where to start writing. I write what I know, I figure out where to expand on what I write, I research to see if it's worth expanding upon, then I continue writing based on what I find, the basic stuff. So far I have found a substantial amount of research on the emotional benefits and therapeutic uses of the arts in a variety of online forms of publication. I also have a few research papers on specific use cases, such as gender identity exploration and trauma healing. Applied theatre is another area I've looked into, as an example of how the performance arts can and are used to influence the world around us.

Sometime this month, I plan to get in contact with an old theatre director friend (Scott Frasier-Maskiell) to talk about being a community leader in the theatre space. I have contacted him, he said he is open to conversation, and I'm aiming to talk to him probably sometime next week. It is through this interview, a survey with the Lane Community College theatre department, and hopefully further interviews with Eugenian community leaders I can create a fully developed statement about these arts communities that pop up and how they affect the people involved. I'm aiming to set up these interviews and collaborations throughout January and February, using the initial interview with Scott to properly workshop and solidify my questions and the topics to touch on.

Script/Project Synopsis

Ah, to heck with it. I (as could be gleaned from the conversation I had with John not too long ago) have no script to put on a pedestal for public observation—Or John observation. Johnservation? No, that would be John conservation. Anyways I'll try to take a synopsis/rough draft of my overall structure. I hope this suffices.

♪Tropeau Bleu by Cortex♪

Part 1: Prologue

It's the opening section of the paper: start with a hook, synopsis, hypothesis—The basics to writing a paper that we learned in middle school. Well, the Welsh middle school equivalent. There is a structure I have recognized in the papers I've been reading to the opening, a structure that is different from what I've learned. I'll get that figured out as I start writing the paper proper.

Part 2: The What, The How, and The Why

This bit is what I need the collaboration to flesh out. I can read as much as I want about the benefits of involvement in the arts, and where/how to get involved locally, but it doesn't speak to the human element of the 'why'. The genuine connections that come from working together towards a common creative goal. Anyways;

1. The What: As in 'What does it take to get involved?' I plan to start with the general costs, requirements, and skill sets that you need to get involved in most theatre spaces. Start off with the bit about how "these are the prerequisites, because in the modern world as online spaces get more prominent, and work

takes longer for less reward, you may just not have the time or space to get into this! And thats okay. :)"

2. The How: This section is the whole here where in the theatre space you can get involved, what you need to be involved, and how to learn those skills on the fly (sometimes). This bit is also gonna be a lot of talking to people that work in these spaces for information. Also, this is probably gonna be the best part to talk about the different performance areas that exist and the differences within them.

Coffee Break! Take a sip of your drink if you have one!

3. The Why: This is what half of my current research is looking at; the tangible benefits of involvement with the arts. I hope to write a section that encompasses the idea of "If you can, you should." Of course, not everyone's into that kind of thing, and for those people I hope to open their eyes to why it's so important in the world today. Even then, I hope to make a point that consumption of mixed media and live performance is just as important as participation in it, so to those who have no want for involvement, viewership is still very much worth it.

Part 4: Applied Theatre

This is the other part that a lot of my past research has gone into. I want to take the ideas that I talked about in the last section and expand upon them with substantial examples of how the arts are used for social and political change. I believe using the genre of 'applied theatre' is a good avenue for this due to how much falls under the umbrella term. There are many historical and modern examples at my disposal to make tangible points, and most of the work here is going to be finding exactly what I want to talk about. I will most likely spend most of my time researching this looking over different examples, finding connections and consistent themes, narrowing down what's worth talking over, then finally settling on two-to-three examples that exemplify different topics. This will most likely be the largest portion of the paper.

Part 5: Conclusion

This layout is far from set in stone but it's acting as a good place for me to start. I want to conclude this paper by leaving uninvolved readers with the question of how they

can get involved in the arts, and already involved readers with a better understanding of what they do and why. My biggest challenge here will probably be maintaining a steady pace and not falling into another depressive slump where I sleep till 2pm with constant anxiety. That's the end of this bit. Cheers

Collaboration

I would like to find some collaboration opportunities within my class, but I have massive anxieties around contacting people. I struggle making connections with my peers, and I worry that my isolationist tendencies are finally coming back to bite me in the ass here. However, from what I've heard, there are themes of performance with the idea of social impact woven throughout multiple of my classmates' independent projects. It would do me well to talk to those people about collaboration as a way of informing my own writings and ideas. On the other hand, I worry about what I can bring to the table on my side of the collaborative coin. I do suppose that as I research further, and become more solidly informed on the ideas that I speak to, I will be able to hold myself in conversations about the different techniques and ideas that are used in the collaborator's project.

Conclusion Summary

I have a ways to go. It's pretty apparent to see. I'm going to get there in the end, though. I have a direction to work towards, I have an emotional and educational support system to support me, and I am working to keep as open a mind as possible. Some estrogen would be killer. IV drip that shit into me, watch the magical mystical creature do a magical girl transformation into a happier person right in front of your eyes. Sparkle-Sparkle. I don't know how to finish papers.

Cookies and Fruitcake,
-Levi Stewart