

Trevor Spears's Revision Exhibit

When I revise a paper, I carefully inspect all aspects of my work. I look at grammar, sentence structure, and organization. Often, my first draft looks like a skeleton compared to my final product. Revising really helps me inspect my paper from top to bottom. The second essay I wrote on the Kings of Leon is a very strong example of the changes I make while revising my work. Below is the second paragraph of this essay, and I will take you through the steps I went through while revising this paragraph.

First Version:

Since the Kings of Leon's existence, their music has evolved into a sound that is uniquely their own. When the band started in 1999, only two of the four members had ever touched an instrument before, which led to what many music magazines described as a sound that possessed a southern drawl and a garage band twist to a music style similar to 1970's rock (NME). However, as the albums have progressed, the Kings of Leon have moved away from the garage band sound that they built their roots on and have developed a more stadium rock sound. Although many critics say that the band has just changed their sound in order to sell albums, the Kings stand by their music in multiple interviews saying that "there's no formula for us, as far as songwriting goes" and that their new sound is derived from them "growing from day one" (Puremusic 2). The band says that they are not concerned if people like their music or not and believe that them not caring has given them the freedom to express themselves in whatever way they so choose (Puremusic). Many people say that the band's perceived freedom from critics has played a major role in the boys finding a sound that is uniquely Kings of Leon.

This first version is basically the framework that I build on for my final product. I try to use the first go around to organize my thoughts and begin to form my argument. I mainly focus on how I am going to use my evidence, and I deal with my grammatical errors when I revise it.

Second Version:

Since the beginning, the Kings of Leon's music has evolved into a sound that is uniquely their own. When the band started in 1999, only two of the four members had ever touched instruments before, which led to what many music magazines described as a sound that possessed a southern drawl and a garage band twist to a music style similar to 1970's rock ("Kings of Leon: Aha Shake Heartbreak"). They have released four albums: *Youth and Young Manhood* (2003), *Aha Shake Heartbreak* (2004), *Because of the Times* (2006), and *Only by the Night* (2008). As these albums have been released, the Kings of Leon have moved away from the garage band sound that was very prevalent on the earlier releases and have developed a sound that is reminiscent of 1980's arena rock. With the change in music, many critics say that the band has just altered their sound in order to appeal to the masses. However, the Kings adamantly claim that the music they are making is authentic to them. In multiple interviews, such as the one with Puremusic.Com, the band stands by their music saying that "there's no formula for us, as far as songwriting goes" and that they make music that is real to them ("A Conversation with Nathan Followill"). The Kings of Leon also believe that this evolution is a byproduct of their maturation as a band and consider themselves "growing from day one" ("A Conversation with Nathan

Followill”). They feel that this growth has only been able to occur because they are not concerned if people like their music, which has ultimately led to them being able to produce a sound that they consider genuinely theirs (“A Conversation with Nathan Followill”).

In this second version, I made many revisions. I corrected the misspelling of “lead” to “led.” The blue highlighted sentences are additions that I made, whether small details or full sentences. Every addition I made put more “meat” on the bones of my original paragraph. The yellow highlighted areas are the sentences in which I changed the wording and the structure. All of these sentences highlighted needed to be corrected in order to make the paragraph have a stronger voice and a smoother flow. Every correction I made to this paragraph was needed in order to produce a final product that was an error free and logical argument.