

During my high school years, I never allowed anyone to proofread my paper before I turned it in. In reality, I would usually sit down at my computer and just write until I could no longer formulate coherent thoughts. Then I would glance over my paper for grammatical errors and then I would turn in that paper as my final. I never saw anything wrong with my so-called process because my writing as typically well-received, but I did not realize I was not reaching my full potential.

This year I have not only learned the value of having my work peer edited, but also that in reading my fellow students' writing. After sitting in front of a paper for hours, I tend to lose focus in my paper's argument. With a fresh pair of eyes looking over my words, my classmates were able to shed light on technical mistakes as well as give insight concerning my analysis. In the same way, as I peer review other students' essays, I am able to mirror those corrections in my own work. Oftentimes I have seen an issue in someone else's paper and realize that I have made the same error in my own work. The process of peer review has enriched my ability to fine tune and assess my own writing through means of comparison.

Music's Bittersweet Effect on my Life by Kendall Griffy

It was a creative outlet that allowed me to lose myself in my music and let go of my worries. It allowed me to focus my energy on something productive, and I was able to interpret the work of others and translate my own emotions through the notes of others. The music was angry, lighthearted, and passionate. It put into motion all of the emotions that welled inside. Not only did music ease my anxiety, it brought me closer to my father. My dad's passion for music gave us a common bond, and there was an unspoken appreciation for it that made us so close. We would drive to rehearsals together, and we'd go and see live performances. My family could enjoy something as a whole.

A Bit of Strawberry in the Recording by Blake Turner

While "Strawberry Fields Forever" may have changed the world it started out just like any other recording. While in Spain during the filming of a Spanish film, John Lennon the front man of the band began work on what would become "Strawberry Fields Forever". Lennon began by reminiscing about his childhood in which there was a place he used to frequent called Strawberry Field. Strawberry Field was actually a Salvation Army Children's Home near where Lennon grew up. As Lennon began

Commented [Taylor S1]: I don't know if it matters, but since you are starting a new paragraph you might want to introduce the oboe again instead of starting the sentence with "it".

Commented [Taylor S2]: Really like this idea of translating your emotions through the notes of other. Maybe phrase it differently though since in the same sentence you said "of others" twice.

Commented [Taylor S3]: I think you could end this paragraph with something more profound. You describe it with such detail, but then this last sentence is kind of short and surfacy.

Commented [Taylor S4]: Insert comma

Commented [Taylor S5]: I would rephrase this the "Spanish film" seems redundant. Maybe say, "While on set for a film in Spain, ..." or something along those lines.

mapping out the song he came to identify Strawberry Field as a place of comfort and safety. After finding his hook for the song Lennon began psycho analyzing himself which is apparent in the lyrics, “No one I think is in my tree,” “There's no one on my wavelength,”(Strawberry Fields) all of these comments show how a depressed Lennon felt that no one understood him. Many believe these lyrics came to fruition due to Lennon's failing marriage with then wife Cynthia Powell and the tail end of a terrible previous tour (500 Greatest Songs). As the song progressed from a simple idea of safety and nostalgia so did Lennon's psychoanalysis of himself. Instead of feeling like the lone man Lennon began to embrace the idea of his individuality and obscurity with lyrics such as, “they can't hang you for it,” and “I mean it's not too bad,”(Strawberry Fields) all of which strengthened Lennon's attempt for self-acceptance. While Lennon's original acoustic version contained no refrain when he eventually brought it in to the studio – the song and the recording world would be changed for future generations.

Commented [Taylor S6]: Citing should just have line numbers

Commented [Taylor S7]: I would put a period and begin a new sentence here.

Commented [Taylor S8]: Last mention on the source, I promise. It should say the authors name then the page number. It's the same for all of the outside sources except the song, which I already wrote above.

The “Ice Dance” Theme and it's Importance in Edward Scissorhands by Kendall Griffy

In the “Ice Dance” theme's first occurrence, Kim opens the door to find Edward carving an angel into ice. Following a quick flourish in the string section, the music crescendos. The gentle “ooh” sounds of a boys choir dip in and out of the string melody resulting in a magical melody that fits the mood of the scene. Edward has reached a point of enlightenment in the form of feeling love for someone for the first time. For this reason, the theme becomes the closest thing to a love song in the movie. A variation of it is played whenever feelings arise between Edward and Kim. In attempt to show his love for Kim, he carves her an angel which she begins to dance around. At this point it begins to snow in suburbia for the first time so the audience begins to associate the theme with snow and winter. This is the reason the theme is called the “Ice Dance.” The other-worldly sounding boys choir most fittingly represents Edward musically. The choir sounds eerie, not unlike Edward's appearance, but is unmistakably beautiful to the ear. When the scene changes, the audience is left on sustained note that is the not the tonic. This creates a feeling of incompleteness, much like a cliffhanger ending in a movie.

Commented [Taylor S9]: It would be helpful to have a little background of this character

Commented [Taylor S10]: I love your description of the instrumentation and music.

Commented [Taylor S11]: This sentence is a bit awkward. I would say something like, “Paralleling, the musical piece derives its name from this prominent wintry setting.”

Commented [Taylor S12]: Don't say “not unlike” because it is a double negative. Rather just say that the choir reflects the physical appearance of Edward.

Commented [Taylor S13]: Take “the” out. (I think that is how you intended the sentence to read)

Elfman uses this technique strategically. We must wait until the very end of the film, during the scene titled “The End,” to hear the melody finally draw to a close.

The Ice Dance theme reappears in the last scene where a much older Kim is telling a bedtime story to a young girl. The story is of Edward Scissorhands. The familiar musical theme fades in from silence. We hear the tinkering bells of the celeste, the gentle oohs from the boys choir, and the string section in it's entirety as snow begins to fall outside the window. When the camera pans out so the audience sees Edward's gothic castle on the hill, the young girl asks if Edward is still alive. When Kim rationalizes that he must be because before Edward came around, there was no snow, the tide changes. Now the little girl and the audience has reached a point of enlightenment. We know that Edward, although fleeing Suburbia, is still alive and in love with Kim.

I feel that these three examples of my peer reviews display distinct aspects of my editing abilities and approach.

Commented [Taylor S14]: This phrase seems to just be tagged on at the end, creating a run on feel. Try and reword this sentence to make it a smooth transition into your next thought.

Commented [Taylor S15]: I think you can go more in depth in this paragraph. Explain further the importance of the same piece appearing in a completely different situation. Also there is not much about the music. Even though you already explained it's composition earlier in the paper, you can still illustrate its emphasis.