Jordie Newton
Mrs. Williams
English 103
9/16/08

A Successful Journey

Throughout my life I have undergone many challenges and therefore have worked diligently to strive to be the best I could be. I have always worked very hard in all aspects of life, not everything has come easily, but with practice and perseverance most obstacles I have been able to overcome. Unfortunately, stress has always played a factor in my life. School was hard for me in that aspect, for I would spend many hours studying to feel proud and pleased with the work I completed. Growing up, music has been a vital part of my life. Music was something I could turn to, in that it has been something that has come naturally to me. It was a release and a stress-reliever. I started playing the violin at the young age of two and a half years old. It was hard for me at first because I was impatient and not understanding that it was going to take hard work and dedication. The strive to be good really pushed me to excel in my playing. It also showed me that dedication and commitment could apply to my schoolwork to help me succeed in reaching my goals.

The poster collage is set up so that the viewers eyes begin on the left with my beginning piece, then move downward vertically to show me in my pre-pubescent years where I was just at the young stage of becoming a violinist. The eyes should then again make there way back to the top and see another sheet of music which represents my teen years playing, and also that the difficulty level rose greatly. The

English 10/2/08 10:17 AM
Comment: What is it about your design that makes you think the viewers will look at it this way?

white as a background was chosen for the first years of my life because white represents, innocence, purity, new beginnings, and a fresh start. In my life, white represents to me that I was a beginner in violin and it was a something I was starting at a very young age. The color red is a very bold color. The color red represents passion, love, and hard work. In my teenage and high school years, I got a lot more serious about playing the violin. I have spent countless hours working hard practicing so I could perfect the pieces I was playing. I took a chance and participated in some once in a lifetime experiences. Violin has become something I love and cherish the talent of being able to play.

The color black, as a backdrop was chosen because it represents class, confidence, and provides an overall clean background. Black represents me in the way of how when people perceive me they see me as a classy, levelheaded person. I have always been confident in my playing as well as myself as a person. I feel the black also gives the clean aspect in that I tend to be a pretty organized.

English 10/2/08 10:18 AM
Comment: How so? What do you mean here?

The three words chosen for the collage were practice, passion, and success. I chose to put the words in red because that represents the hard work and love that went into reaching my goals. The word practice was displayed diagonally and in between the representation of my childhood versus my teenage years. I chose to put it there because it is something I will always have to do young or old, and it's put diagonally like a staircase because the more I practice the higher "up the stairs" I go to becoming a better musician. The word passion was placed in the middle of the poster because it is a passion of mine as a whole. The word success was placed at the very end at the bottom after my acceptance letter to Ball State's music program.

This was placed there because I achieved my goal and was successful through the audition. I would have been nowhere if I didn't take the time to practice and put the effort in. All of the practice paid off for because I was accepted into the music school here at Ball State University to work towards a music minor. All of my hard work truly paid off, I was successful in reaching my goal as a student and as well as a violinist. Spending so much time on the violin and working towards my goal has made me passionate about playing. I enjoy playing every chance I get and it has been able to be such a release for me my whole life.

Jordie,

Paper: Your paper is clear and concise. You use good organization and examples to explain your rhetorical choices to your reader. One thing that I am most interested in is why you think the readers eyes will travel in this way? What is it about your design that shows this?

Project: Your project is well composed. You have balanced color and design to show a progression of your journey through music literacy. I am interested by the fact that you chose a collage rather than a linear media even though you are dealing with a linear event. Two thing to think about in revision. First, you mention in the essay that the piece of sheet music represents what you played in your teen year. How can you show this? The music alone doesn't really reflect this? DO you have an image of yourself you could put to help? Secondly, I am wondering where this literacy journey is taking you. I know it wasn't really part of the assignment, but I can't help but wonder what your ultimate goal is with your music.