

Learning to Analyze the Humanities

Student's Name

Institutional Affiliation

1-1 Discussion: Learning to Analyze the Humanities

Hello everyone! I am Alex from sunny California, and when I am not buried in books, I love to explore the world through my camera lens. I am majoring in Applied Humanities with a focus on cultural studies because I am fascinated by how cultures intersect and influence each other. My goal is to work in cultural preservation, helping to maintain and share the rich tapestry of global heritage. From this HUM 200 course, I am eager to deepen my understanding of how art, literature, and music reflect and shape societal values. I hope to apply these insights to my future projects in cultural preservation.

I have always been most comfortable with literature. Something about the power of words and the worlds they can create has always resonated with me. Growing up, I was the kid who would stay up late, flashlight in hand, devouring every book I could find. My experience with literature spans countless genres, from classic novels to contemporary poetry, shaping my imagination and perspective on life. Music, however, presents a challenge for me. Despite enjoying it, I struggle to understand its technical aspects and the theory behind compositions. I am eager to dive deeper into music in this course, hoping to appreciate it better and understand its impact.

Diving deeper into my affinity for literature, one book that stands out is "To Kill a Mockingbird" by Harper Lee. Beyond its narrative, this novel taught me the complexities of human nature, justice, and empathy from a young age. It is a prime example of how literature can influence one's ethical and moral compass. As for music, my challenge lies in understanding the intricacies behind compositions. However, I am drawn to the emotional depth of classical music, particularly to compositions like Beethoven's "Moonlight Sonata," which, despite my limited technical understanding, profoundly moves me with its sad melody and intricate emotionality.

"Between the Lines and Beyond the Notes: A Journey Through Literature and Music"

This title encapsulates my deep-seated love for literature, highlighted by the profound impact "To Kill a Mockingbird" has had on my understanding of humanity and my budding curiosity toward the emotional depths of classical music, exemplified by Beethoven's "Moonlight Sonata." It invites a conversation on the transformative power of words and the emotive resonance of music, encouraging classmates to explore and share their experiences with these diverse yet equally compelling forms of expression.

Peer Responses

In response to your peers, choose a different focal point than the one you chose for yourself, and elaborate on how your peers' choice of focal point could be relevant to you. What do you think you could learn from these students' perspectives?

Response 01

I was intrigued by your focus on visual art, mainly since my comfort zone lies within literature. Your mention of Van Gogh's "Starry Night" piqued my interest, offering a perspective on how emotions and ideas can be conveyed through words and visually, painting a picture that speaks volumes without a single spoken word. This cross-disciplinary understanding could enrich my appreciation for storytelling, showing me how narratives can be woven through colors, strokes, sentences, and paragraphs. I am keen to learn how visual art can complement literary themes, possibly enhancing my interpretations of literature.