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Multimodal Composition Reflection

[Google Site and Daily Logs](https://sites.google.com/ucdavis.edu/kaylanuclarayuwp001/home)

[Final Cover Memo](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1jpQQmxizahLVhu5gcGlTZB6MJVATHZ54CP2Z2tRbZKM/edit?usp=sharing)

[Peer Cover Memo](https://docs.google.com/document/d/14AH4rrXSvfA3YOSRsbsWnxeN7HRFUYoIMhA21IjBNKY/edit?usp=sharing)

When approaching the lyrics to your favorite song and annotating a piece of text for an English class, there are obvious and not-so-obvious similarities and differences. The first thing I do in either instance is find lines that I can make a connection with. By doing this, I am able to more deeply understand what the song or paper is trying to convey to its audience little by little. What is beautiful about both of these mediums is that you can re-listen or re-read the same song or paper, and oftentimes draw something new from it. Between listening to my favorite song, reading a paper for class, taking notes for Calculus, and seeing a post on Instagram, my overall mindset in approaching academic and non-academic literacies differ, while my thought processes share some similarities.

Multimodal compositions take on varying forms in this "always-on-the-go," technological society today, such as songs or audiobooks playing on your Apple Watch. However, due to songs being generally more catchy and "consumable" in length, the audience can definitely be more vast than a book or essay with a specific audience in mind. Looking back to “How to Read like a Writer” by Mike Bunn, one can really break down an author’s intended audience behind a piece of text by analyzing the diction, general formatting, etc. However, the nature of song-writing and “audience-catering” varies from artist to artist and can appeal to vastly different people. You can really take a certain lyric and give it your own meaning, even if it wasn’t the artist’s intention. This can still be done with a paper; however, their audience and purpose is more rigid. My favorite song at the moment is “What if I had been that PUMA,” also known as “Balance Game” by a Korean group named TXT. Knowing the story behind this song, it is more profound than you might think. The gist of the lyrics is about choosing between taking a risk, or taking the safe route and never knowing the taste of freedom. The song was based on a real-life event— a puma that escaped a zoo for a few hours in South Korea due to its gate being left unlocked, which you would not know if you did not look this up. I relate to the indecisiveness of being caught in a forked path with the fear of the unknown ahead, especially in my college decision. Do I stay closer to my family and go to a local college, or take the opportunity to “find myself” elsewhere. I had to ponder what the “right” choice was for me. Further, the visual mode can be seen in music with album covers, giving a potential sneak-peek to the music’s vibe. In contrast, "An Introduction to and Strategies for Multimodal Composing" by Melanie Gagich is very clear with its audience and purpose being college students trying to understand and create multimodal compositions with five different modes— linguistic, spatial, gestural, aural, and visual. I took away information for educational application rather than for relatability and self-reflection. While Gagich does include real-life examples and images, constituting the visual mode, to help readers understand the content, my overall approach to the text remained academic. I did not seek anything introspective from it other than to help me in this course. Thus far, the linguistic and visual mode dominates both my academic and non-academic processes, as seen with song lyrics, texts, and images, whereas the aural mode dominates more-so with non-academic processes like music itself.

On a different note, notes for my calculus class have to be precise, as opposed to social media like Instagram with creative free-reign. With math, there is only one correct answer which some people either like or dislike, and I am the latter. It feels intimidating that one miscalculation can lead to a completely wrong answer despite my efforts. This is why I prefer analyzing texts and drawing my own perspective on things, rather than having to follow a strict formula or method to get to the answer. For math, the spatial mode is utilized for easy-to-understand notes—if everything is jumbled up rather than organized, it is hard to understand how one got to an answer. With the media, a post I came across on Instagram relevant to Filipino-American history month discussed the Delano Grape Strike, which got me interested in my roots, as that is where I was born. I felt proud to see more and more Filipino representation in the media these days, as growing up I questioned why I never looked like what I saw in the media. This post definitely utilized the linguistic, spatial, and visual modes as things on Instagram should catch your eye with pleasing colors and fonts if you want more likes. Also, relevant pictures were inserted to break up the text to hold attention for longer, as well as to give insight on what mentioned places and people looked like. These two forms, academic and non-academic, both place an emphasis on the spatial mode; however, math has strict guidelines in order to do things the right way, whereas you can post anything on Instagram freely.

From songs and social media to math and academic literature, there are still similarities despite the differences and different “thinking caps” required for the two. For non-academic processes, I approach them lightheartedly and perhaps more mindlessly as I don’t have to worry about a grade attached to my actions. I also seem to gravitate towards Asian representation in terms of content, with a mindset of introspection. With academic processes, I have to focus and wear academic lenses when doing schoolwork, as I have to show professors that I understand and can apply concepts that need to be learned. Mindsets when approaching multimodal compositions differ; however, overlap is unavoidable when they make-up our everyday lives, you just need to take a step back to see it.

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