

BellaRose Clarke

Professor Lobell

FIQWS Creative Expression

Decemeber 8, 2025

This class has helped me grow overall as a person. I feel like I've done a lot in this class and I've done enough to leave an impact on the teachers as well as some of the students inside the class. I've done my best on all my assignments though I've done almost the bare minimum on everything, other than my research essay and my oral presentation for Rent. The class has helped me overcome my fears when it came to interacting with classmates that I'm unfamiliar with. I've always been afraid of speaking up. It gets worse in front of people I don't know. But, doing oral presentations helped me grow as a person and even interact with more people in class. Not only did I feel it helped me but I feel like it helped other classmates as well and helped the class as a whole become more of a community.

The analysis essay I wrote on Rent I wasn't really proud of. In my mind, I had wanted to write about Snow but I mistaken Snow for Rent. Snow in my head was the easiest out of the two to write about because there was very little to watch and all the information was out in the open and easy to go into depth about. But, in the end I did Rent. I just listened to the soundtracks and went based on that to write my paper. Listening to it led me to open up my horizons on what I usually listen to and it opened my eyes to more sounds that I'm not used to listening to. I got all my information off youtube and google and formulated a good paper according to my professor. It helped me realize that I'm actually good at writing papers without as much help. I usually need help from a friend but I knew since I was in college, I have to start doing things on my own and

that's what I did. I always thought that the way I wrote wasn't strong enough but after the feedback I received, I thought otherwise.

If I could rank the assignments in this class from my most favorite to my least favorite, the genre translation project would have to be my 2nd favorite. I enjoyed this project because when I first heard about the project, I immediately thought about snow and how the two girls could've become friends or what made them want to hate or love the snow. Giving them a little backstory was fun to me because I love coming up with random stories because it just keeps my imagination active. I'm just naturally an imaginative person so this was the perfect idea for the project. When I was thinking about the story, I felt like when giving them names, that would be one of the most key parts of the story I make because the names had meanings. Since the girl who grew up in Thailand is always happy, I thought a Thai name that meant "always happy" would fit her very nicely. As for the Canadian girl, I couldn't think of another name other than a name that meant snow. Since she's around snow so much, I thought having her name mean snow or white would also make sense to be her name. And I just made the meaning of their name the title of the small chapter. Overall, making it was fun and I enjoyed it.

The research essay was my favorite assignment of this class. I really enjoyed this because I felt like I could really talk about something that I'm passionate about, which happened to be Kpop. I consider myself a kpop fanatic because I listen to many songs, learn dances and keep up with the fandom and what they do when they post vlogs. Considering I really like kpop and it could count as a performing art because they're singing and dancing on stage to a large audience, I thought it would be perfect to incorporate it in my research paper. When talking about it, it made me happy that I'd be able to share my passion with my professor and my fellow classmates that might've read it. I kept the essay informative so they learn about what kpop is and how it

came to be as well as the impact it has on people and the impact it has on the idols themselves. It's both a blessing and a curse but overall I hope for peace for the idols from all the hate they could be getting for mistakes that they can't control or just unnecessary hate that they don't deserve. I knew these things about the idols but doing more research on it helped me realize how they go through such terrors just to get us fans what we want and look good for us. I hope it gets easier for them and I hope whoever reads my essay learns something new about kpop and maybe gets into kpop.

This course significantly enhanced my academic skills, especially in research, by providing effective methods for accessing and interpreting primary sources, which complements my existing knowledge of secondary sourcing. The assignments and required oral arguments not only strengthened my ability to use primary evidence but also boosted my confidence in public speaking. The collaborative class environment encouraged me to think on a deeper level and connect course topics to my own interests, such as seeing K-pop as a performing art that promotes cultural understanding. Ultimately, this course built a strong classroom community and helped me overcome self-doubt, leading me to embrace and trust my own writing ability. To conclude, the assignments for this class weren't difficult to do at all and I feel like overall a good start to my first semester. I know things are going to get harder as the semesters go on but I definitely won't forget this class.