Essay 3: *Walk This Way*
ENGL 1102 (Josh Sewell)

**Length:** 3-4 pages minimum (double-spaced, Times New Roman, 12-point font, MLA format, works cited page doesn’t count toward page length)

**Due Date:** Monday, July 22 at the beginning of class (submit an electronic copy to the appropriate CourseDen folder before coming to class; no hard copy required)

**PURPOSE:**
In this essay, you will gain experience with independent research and developing information literacy skills via your examination of self-selected sources. You will employ skepticism and recognize your own biases/worldviews and their influence on your assessment of a source. You will use research to formulate and support an original argument on the importance of music in modern culture that synthesizes source material with your contribution to the critical conversation.

**DESCRIPTION:**
In addition to *Walk This Way*, select an article that examines one of the topics we’ve discussed in relation to the film and a social/cultural issue it addresses. Then, develop your argument by using one text to “read” or interpret the other or by comparing and contrasting both texts’ views on your chosen topic/thesis.

Choose ONE of the following topics to discuss in your essay:

1. This semester, we have frequently discussed the cultural power of music, specifically how it connects to larger social issues such as identity, race, class, sexuality, gender, etc. Consider how this occurs in *Walk This Way* and construct a specific argument discussing how the book addresses one of these topics and to what purpose. Be sure to also utilize ONE article from a scholarly database like GALILEO as you formulate a complex “so what?”

2. Dozens of people are interviewed in *Walk This Way*, all with strong opinions about the ramifications of the collaboration between Run-DMC and Aerosmith. Based on the song’s impact, was it a positive or negative development for the music industry and overall pop culture? Defend your specific argument with an effective thesis statement and evidence from the text. Be sure to also utilize ONE article from a scholarly database like GALILEO.

3. *Walk This Way* spends a great deal of time talking about artists’ authenticity and image. How do you think the collaboration between Run-DMC and Aerosmith impacted their images? Was it an “authentic” moment in the history of pop music? Defend your specific argument with an effective thesis statement and evidence from the text. Be sure to also utilize ONE article from a scholarly database like GALILEO.

**PROCEDURE:**
1. **Introductory Paragraph**
   In the introduction, you will present a brief overview of the critical conversation in which *Walk This Way* and your selected article participate. You should begin by introducing the general topic and then narrow your focus by introducing and summarizing the main arguments of both texts. Finally, conclude your introduction with an argumentative thesis statement that articulates ONE of the following: (a) what readers gain by using one of your texts as a “lens” through which to “see” the other; or (b) what examining these two texts comparatively shows us that we might not otherwise have seen.
2. Thesis Statement
Your thesis should articulate a specific argument that engages critically and intellectually with the texts you’ve presented in the intro. Remember, the argument isn’t simply what these texts are “about,” but rather what these writers, artists, filmmakers, etc. motivate us to think about a particular issue or subject and where we might go from there. Take a side. Articulate your own stance. Offer your own interpretation or perspective, informed by your sources.

3. Supporting Argument/Body of Essay
Each body paragraph should include the three components of the 3 I-ed Monster model...

- a clear topic sentence that can be debated (Identify)
- specific supporting examples from the text (Illustrate)
- a brief explanation after each example stating how and why it proves your topic sentence (Interpret)

Each topic sentence should make an argumentative claim that further specifies the assessment of the source text articulated in the thesis statement, and as such should evaluate a particular rhetorical, compositional, organizational, stylistic, logical, etc. choice made in that text. Evidence, meanwhile, will take the form of quotations (or paraphrases) and scene analysis from the source texts that support and/or illustrate the claim made in the topic sentence. The analysis will explain how each piece of evidence supports, illustrates, and otherwise “proves” the argued evaluation. Consistently analyze your source texts throughout, avoiding personal response, anecdotes, and/or and heavy summary.

4. Conclusion
Re-emphasize and expand upon your own argument. Reflect on why this topic is important beyond the scope of your own essay. Why should your reader care? What is at stake? In other words, leave your reader with a sense of the larger issues relevant to your topic. If your argument responding to the text is true, and if you’ve proved it well, what is the “takeaway” for someone reading it?

RESOURCES:
1. Overall Help: In addition to office hours, the University Writing Center is a great resource for all your writing assignments in any class. I cannot emphasize how important it might be for you to make appointments there.

2. Help During the Writing Process: Remember the PDFs and links in the Unit 1 folder! Just because we’ve moved on to other units doesn’t mean they’re not still important. Use them as tools to brainstorm a basic structure for your argument.

3. MLA Help: Be sure to use the Purdue OWL website in formatting both your in-text citations and works cited page. Remember you must cite every reference to your source, including any material summarized or paraphrased. Accidental plagiarism is still plagiarism!

Grading rubric available on CourseDen.