

B,

I'm aware that your goal is an "A"! I do enjoy reading your essays. You're an excellent writer. The position of the sentence is fine, and while I acknowledge the importance, in many cases, of restating the thesis in the conclusion, I'm also happy as long as the writer returns in some way to those original ideas/claims. My only suggestion would be that since you have rephrased the first two points--"their sounds are essentially modern, they provide escape instead of revolution"--you might want to rephrase "customizable" in the third as well. You don't have to, but the first two phrasings do provide another way to understand your initial claims. Looks like some good work. I'm looking forward to reading your essay.

M

On Tue, Feb 25, 2014 at 7:04 PM, B <[@hotmail.com](mailto:@hotmail.com)> wrote:

Dear Ms B;

I am working on the latest of several re-writes of my "Music" essay for your 102 Composition class and wonder if you could give me some insight.

My essay argues that techno/EDM dance music is actually a valid carrier of culture for my millennial generation, and I have worked hard to include quotes from the 1980's Alan Bloom article in it. I have used Bloom's words in my intro to establish the idea that he doesn't really like modern music and that he feels it has done to harm culture in general. My thesis is that EDM (or techno) music should be considered a valid carrier of 21<sup>st</sup>-century youth culture because its technology-based sounds are totally modern, because it serves as a background to real life instead of a catalyst for change, and because it is as customizable as its generation demands.

I would like to return to the Bloom ideas in my concluding paragraph and am well aware that classic rhetorical protocol would ask for my restated sentence to be the very first sentence in the concluding paragraph. In this version (which Ms. H and I like) the restated thesis is actually the SECOND sentence, following naturally after the Bloom comment. Does this work in your opinion?

*While in 1987, Bloom obviously did not like modern music and probably would not approve of EDM or techno today, he unwittingly makes a very valid point for its existence when he writes, "...the essential character of musical entertainment is not changing. There is only constant search for variations on a theme" (778) Techno and EDM music are natural musical variations that uniquely represent millennial culture because their sounds are essentially modern, they provide escape instead of revolution, and they are as customizable as their public demands. Techno is for Generation Y what rock and roll was for Baby Boomers, and despite its detractors, techno and EDM should be considered true carriers of culture for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. In the sixties, the young wanted to rebel. Today's youth, however, by Dr.*

*Novak's definition, are a generation that just wants to get along, and techno and EDM music are well liked by large numbers of them. Occasionally, these musical genres are labeled as "geek" music, but perhaps more than any generation before, Millennials are a generation of inward-looking, technology-appreciating geeks. Interestingly, if those same "geeks" perform as they often have in history and grow up to be "movers and shakers," bosses, and thinkers, perhaps their choice of music should not be dismissed so easily. Perhaps instead of looking to revolution and sex for inspiration, our generation will align itself with a musical genre that is as original and yet as evocative as the times we live in.*

Does the re-stated thesis in the slightly unorthodox 2<sup>nd</sup>-sentence position work for you? The placement seemed to highlight the Bloom source and flow more naturally than starting the paragraph with the restate and then trying to work back to the Bloom idea. I don't want to do anything that you think is inappropriate, though. I want to improve my classis rhetorical technique, and my goal is an "A" in your class – not a "B."

Many thanks

B