
Writer's Statement about Combating Internet Piracy: Is the Cost Too Great?

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Throughout the process of writing this piece, the aspect I was the most concerned about was making sure the arguments I was making were as clear as I could possibly make them and that those arguments were supported by other professionals and legitimate sources. This meant going through multiple sources and picking out those which were best instead of grabbing the first few that were found. Then, with those selected sources, I formed my own arguments with the sources in mind so that I was not simply “plugging in” sources at the end nor was I making my arguments and points completely based on the sources.

Achieving that balance was rather time-consuming because, in my mind, every word and sentence had to weave and flow together to really drive the argument home. The only real way of overcoming this was with time and patience. A trick I discovered along the way is to imagine myself speaking to a judge, panel, or audience and that helped me create organize my paper in such a way that the reader could understand my ideas with ease. Using this technique, I settled on writing the paper as if I was simply explaining the issue and the arguments before making my own. This evolved rather nicely (I thought) into the simple format I ended up using: introduction, presenting side A, presenting side B, presenting my views and arguments on the issue, and a conclusion and solution as the last main part of the text. By presenting the information in this format really allowed me to work in outside sources with my arguments with ease and ultimately made the process a little smoother.

Another aspect of the process I would like to stress is the peer and teacher feedback. I honestly believe feedback is underestimated. As a writer, I learned so much from peer reviews and teacher input and this was crucial because ultimately that population was going to make up the majority of my audience. Being able to sample what my intended audience thought of my paper before turning in a final version almost feels like cheating a little in the sense that they allow me to make further improvements to the paper so that it is tailored to a specific audience which almost guarantees a relatively positive response when the finalized version is turned in. I was writing to further inform my audience on the topic of internet piracy, so when one of my peers or my professor said a certain point did not make sense or if they said a certain point was weak, the chances are that the rest of my intended audience would have similar feelings. Embracing what my professor and peers said regardless of what I thought of the paper beforehand was truly beneficial and highlighted that having a separate pair of eyes looking over every draft is imperative to writing in general.

In the early stages of writing my paper, I was not explaining “the entertainment industry” as well and that often left my peer reviewers wondering what exactly that meant and who was involved. By breaking that industry apart and incorporating many of its aspects (music, movies, producers, artists, legislators, and consumers), I was able to paint a picture of the issue in a way

that is a hundred times clearer than my original explanations. That was only possible because I listened to the feedback I was given. Listening to the feedback given to me probably was the single most important aspect of putting together the paper. While it is possible to write a really good piece without feedback, such a piece might not be as tailored to the intended audience. The piece might be slightly above or slightly below their level of understanding and really the most important part of writing is making sure the intended audience is kept in mind at all times. Ultimately, that determines whether a writer is successful or not and feedback is the best way to make sure my paper spoke clearly to my intended audience about an important issue which will affect them: combating internet piracy and at what cost.