**Establishing Identity in the Music World- To Spend or Not to Spend**

Title hints at the thesis

This is my hook

Becoming a successful musician in today’s world can test your morals and your identity. **How does one stay true to oneself with the wealth and privilege that success can bring and how can an author use literary devices to portray this dilemma?** Ella Yelich-O’Connor, commonly known in the music world as *Lorde*, is confident in her identity which is reflected in the lyrics of the song “Royals”. The poet is a young singer from New Zealand who is just beginning to establish her career in the pop music industry. She is determined to escape the traps of rock “royalty” and write songs that are not about being rich and poorly behaved. She is proud of her roots and her restrained lifestyle with her friends but admits she enjoys the idea of being a queen without losing who she is as a person. “Juicy”, on the other hand, written and performed by the Notorious BIG reflects a completely attitude about the successes of rap genius. He is quite willing to flaunt his wealth and prestige in the music world and writes lyrics about the excesses and privilege of his position. **Although both poems are about the effects of musical success on their identity, the poets use of *imagery* and the *tone* highlight the differences in the artist’s attitudes about what musical success will mean to their sense of ‘who they are and who they will be’. The reader/listener recognizes the power of these devices to reinforce meaning and theme.**

Inquiry question-note that it may be quite specific to your thesis

Note the authors and the names of the poems MUST be in the introduction

This is my thesis!!!

*Money and success can change who you are and your place in society. It is your attitude about this accomplishment that can make you into someone new… or not.* The tone in these poems are very different, thereby highlighting the themes of these songs. Lorde is a girl who knows who she is and is not afraid to admit her simplicity and humble background. She admits she has never “seen a diamond in the flesh,” (O’Connor, 1) or “come from money” (20) and even takes pride in her minimalism. She seems proud of her roots in New Zealand and recognizes that her hometown is not a desirable address to other rock stars. She writes, “And I’m not proud of my address, in the torn up town/no post code envy” (3-4). Compared to living in Beverley Hills or Hollywood, her postal code is remote and simple. This independent poet takes pride in hanging with friends and “count[ing} [their] dollars on the train to the party/And everyone who knows us knows that we’re fine with this” (21). She feels accepted for who she is, despite her fame and possible fortune. She is quick to reassure her audience that she and her friends (notice she has to reassure us how many friends she has….) will “never be royals/it don’t run in our blood, that kind of lux just ain’t for us,” (31). Do not confuse her with those fancy, flashy rock stars of the pop world, that is not who Lorde is. Biggie, on the other hand, is very proud of his new identity. He is no longer the poor “black man misunderstood” (Notorious BIG,13) but rather “uh, damn right I like the life I live/cause I went from negative to positive/And it’s all good.. “(18-20). He even boasts, “Now honies play me close like butter played toast,” (6) Biggie’s attitude towards his accomplishments is one of confidence and pride; some would even say arrogant and egotistical if you do not understand the difficult journey a black man in America faces in the path to success.

*The topic sentences highlights what the paragraph will be about: tone*

Transition words

*Both poems use the device of* ***imagery*** *to paint a picture of the life of rock royalty.* Lorde is not going to lower herself and write songs about being a crazy, luxurious, conceited rock star. She describes all the ridiculous things rock stars do such as “jet planes, islands, tigers on a gold leash” (9) and states that “we [meaning her friends and herself] are not caught up in your love affair”(28). Lorde and her friends are much too grounded and “crave a different kind of buzz” (14) to fall for these silly endeavours. She can still fantasize and dream about this lifestyle but she would rather pretend and “let me be your ruler , you can call me queen B” (16) and keep the “cadillacs in our dreams” (25) as opposed to actually becoming all that is symbolized with a rock and roll lifestyle. In contrast, Biggie has no problem flashing his wealth. He states he is “putting 5 karats in my baby girl’s ears/lunches, brunches, interviews by the pool” (10-11) and “drinking champagne when we thirsty” (17) which are all excessive images of wealth. Biggie is content to flaunt the symbols of rock star lifestyles and revels in this new level of success.

In conclusion, BIG has attitude: an identity that is confident and cocky. According to this song, he has suffered the hardship of being a Black American living in poverty, worshipping at the metaphorical feet of famous pioneer rap stars. Now, he creates poems/songs that create the **image and the tone** of an affluent lifestyle with the riches he never had when he was young. And he is not afraid to make this new lifestyle a part of his new identity. Lorde is confident in her identity as a grounded, simple Kiwi who happens to write some great music. She reassures her listeners that she is unique and simple and will not act like spoiled rock and roll royalty. Here is a young woman who knows herself, her morals and her roots. As her fame and fortune increase, will Lorde be able to sustain these ideals? Or are we going to see Ella “trash’in a hotel room” and “sipping champagne when we’s thirsty” sooner than we think?

**Note how I “extend the thinking” to expand on the thesis but wrap it up?**

**Note the conclusion restates the thesis and the evidence in a NEW Way.**