

Sample Student Outline

English 103
10-3-07

Kurt Cobain Outline

I. Joe Schimmel, This could be Heaven or this could be Hell!, October 2, 2007.

II. Thesis: Kurt Cobain, lead singer of the band Nirvana, while admittedly popular, was a devil worshiper and destructive force on the youth across the world.

III. Main Points

A. The author claims that “Nirvana is considered by many to be the most influential band of the 1990s, but the life of the lead singer was a very negative one based on spiritual and psychological standards.”

His evidence consists of the following statements:

1. “Rolling Stone magazine named Nirvana ‘artist of the year’.”
2. “Spin magazine classified Nirvana at the very top of the ‘ten that mattered most’ bands in the decade of 1985-1995.”
3. Nirvana’s album ‘Nevermind’ was considered, by one biographer, to be ‘a contender for the album of the decade’.
4. The lead singer of Nirvana, Kurt Cobain, is described as the ‘prince of grunge’ who ‘invented what became the grunge lifestyle’.
5. “Cobain’s life was inspired by a spirit that was anything but God’s spirit.”
6. “Cobain’s life was filled with utter hopelessness and despair.”

Conclusion: His conclusion can be considered conclusive in the fact that many popular sources praise Nirvana as a band, but his conclusion about his life is unsubstantial.

B. The author claims that “Cobain was a devil worshiper.”

His evidence consists of the following statements:

1. Cobain’s desire to be respected and accepted caused him to “sell his soul to the Devil” for fame.
2. He stated that his goal was “to get stoned and worship Satan”.
3. Cobain owned a statue of Mary with the head cut off.
4. Cobain desecrated churches, by spray-painting sayings like “God is Gay.”
5. Cobain also would spray-paint sayings like “Homo Sexual Sex Rules” and “Abort Christ.”
6. Cobain would take song lyrics that he was dissatisfied with and light them on fire on the porch of churches.
7. He also destroyed a church notice-board and an expensive crucifix.
8. His apartment was decorated with baby dolls hanging by their necks, covered in blood.

9. Cobain being an icon in our society illustrates a level of wickedness and depravity of the human heart.
 10. Cobain was associated with William Burroughs, a known occultist.
 11. Cobain was used by satanic forces to influence the youth, due to his involvement with black magic and witchcraft.
 12. Cobain was obsessed with Antony LaVey, founder of the Church of Satan and author of the Satanic Bible.
 13. Cobain's lyrics were channeled through him by demonic forces.
- Conclusion: The conclusion that Kurt Cobain was a devil worshipper is unsubstantiated, in that there are no direct instances, that can be proven, of Kurt actually worshipping the devil.

C. The author claims that "Kurt Cobain was a known drug addict."

His evidence consists of the following statements:

1. Heroin was one of his drugs of choice.
2. His appearance showed his drug use by his sunken cheeks, pinned pupils, and scabbed and sallow skin.
3. Upon his autopsy, valium and a huge amount of heroin was found in his blood.
4. To support his drug habits, he dealt drugs and traded sex for drugs.

Conclusion: His conclusion is substantiated by the drugs found in his blood upon autopsy.

D. The author claims that "Kurt Cobain was a homosexual."

1. He was admittedly "gay in spirit."
2. He said that he was "probably bisexual."
3. He admitted to having sex with three or four men.
4. His wife stated that he "made out with half the guys in Seattle".
5. He French-kissed his base player on Saturday Night Live and carried lewd pornographic pictures depicting women doing various sexual acts with animals.

Conclusion: His conclusion is substantiated by his own admittance and the testimony of his wife.

E. The author claims that "Kurt Cobain has a murderous heart and was deeply into the occult."

1. Cobain vehemently desired and stated that he wanted to murder a journalist named Lynn Hirschberg for bashing his wife in Vanity Fair for her use of cocaine while pregnant.
2. Cobain sought to harm Hirschberg by "enlisting the forces of Satan to do his bidding through black magic".
3. The author previously references Cobain's involvement with William Burroughs and Anton LaVey.

Conclusion: His conclusions are not totally unsubstantiated, as Cobain did claim to want to kill Hirschberg, but the claim that he was "deeply into the occult" is fragmented at best.

F. The author claims that “Cobain was a hateful individual.”

1. He had to be pressured at one point not to kill his wife.
 2. He said that “ninety-nine percent of humanity could be shot” if it were up to him.
 3. Satan was a murderer, says the Bible, and Kurt Cobain had murderous desires.
 4. Cobain would spit on his fans and say derogatory things to them at shows.
 5. One biographer said that “Cobain lacked anything resembling an ethical centre”.
 6. Cobain hated women and mistreated them on numerous occasions in brutal and demeaning ways.
 7. He tormented the other band members.
 8. His band members described him as “little Hitler” and “like living with the devil”.
 9. Cobain nearly committed suicide on stage at one of their concerts.
 10. His wife said of him, “Kurt had a lot of personal inner ... demons, a lot of frailties and physical ailments.
 11. Cobain was used by his record label and the devil to further their respective goals.
 12. Cobain hated humanity and God and chafed at God’s authority in his life.
- Conclusion: His conclusion that Cobain was hateful towards humanity is substantiated by his own admittance, but a lot of the evidence is biased and convoluted with Christian concepts, from which no conclusions should be drawn.

G. The author claims that “Kurt Cobain’s beliefs about life, anti-God mentality and behavior, and his overall rejection of Jesus Christ as his “savior” lead to his downfall and eventual suicide.”

1. The name Nirvana eludes to a Hindu concept of the afterlife which results in the extinction of life and the return to Brama, or the ultimate energy in the universe. The band name is compared to the Hindu “demon worship” that is practiced in India, and is related to the concept of hell, in the author’s mind.
2. The author claims that this ideology leads to “destruction and eternal damnation”.
3. The author links Cobain’s suicide to the fact that the devil was “no longer delivering the goods in regard to musical inspiration, demonstrated in him writing that “his muse had flown south”.
4. Apparently, Satan’s mode of operation (Modus Operandi) was “seeking out those lonely hearts that are seeking fame, recognition, acceptance, power, or all of the above and uses such a one to his own perverse glory and then spits them out and discards them for eternity”.
5. Satan is often connected to suicide. He sights examples like Judas and Saul, from the Bible, as well as a young man who was caused to be thrown in the fire by demons who possessed him, until Jesus exorcised them.
6. The author says that Cobain was in “satanic bondage” and had to “pay the Piper” when he died, which basically claims that he went to hell.
7. There were a rash of suicides after Cobain’s that are supposedly linked to the demonic influence of his music and lyrics.

8. The author links the rise in suicide after the 50s to the rise of Rock and Roll.

9. The author brings up issues such as his daughter and mother and the hypothetical effects of his suicide on them.

Conclusion: His conclusion is faulty and unsubstantiated due to the lack of proof involved in the spiritual concepts the author is stating.

H. The author states that “if you have been demonically influenced by this type of music, the author states that you should accept Jesus dying for your sins.”

1. A person who does not accept God/Jesus is damned to the lake of fire for eternity.

2. If you are not with Jesus, you are against him. (Matthew 12:30)

3. The author finishes with a quote by Jesus from Revelation 3:20, “Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me.”

Conclusion: This entire section of the text is unsubstantiated and completely nonsensical.