**Add-Vent Response #2**

**English 12**

**February 2016**

Yesterday I asked you to rant about a topic that annoys you. For most, I hope, this would not have proved challenging. It’s easy to complain and let loose on the world around us. However, what if we have the power to turn our biggest stresses and botherations into moments of clarity and perspective? Today I’d like you to do this.

**Task: Write a response to your rant from yesterday. But instead of dissing this person, situation, thing, or part of your life, write about it with a more positive, mature point of view that looks at the issue from the other side. In other words, be as open-minded as you can and attempt to rid your rant of the emotional baggage that so often turns a happenstance into a pet peeve… or worse!**

Here’s mine. Same length. Same expectations in terms of writing with variety, strong tone, and 3-4 sentences of elaboration.

Music means different things to different people. It can motivate and change moods; but it can also define relationships or entire periods in people’s lives. From the first day I received a boom box and my first cassette – Michael Jackson’s *Thriller* – I became a music fan. And though my tastes are quite eclectic, certain criteria continue to define the kind of music I like to listen to. The music needs to be catchy and appealing to the ear, or it needs to resonate with my past or the way I look at the world. In some cases, songs will do all of this.

Few musical artists are as polarizing as Justin Bieber and One Direction. Despite selling out concerts globally, generating hundreds of views on youtube, and topping music charts, their legions of fans are balanced by countless haters. In an industry as judgmental and inexorable as the entertainment industry, maybe these guys deserve credit for succeeding when so many others have failed. Songs like “Sorry” and “Perfect” may be controversial in their messages, but are there really throngs of 13 year old girls now falling at the feet of unsupportive, mistaken prone boys who have no desire to meet these girls’ mothers? Haven’t these themes in music been sung about for decades, by even the most beloved and “classic” of artists? It hasn’t been that long since Stevie Wonder, the guy who called just to say he loved you, also sang soulfully about the…*wonders* of his “part time lover.” And lets not even begin to discuss the “sister and her cousin” so proudly sung about in Aerosmith’s “Walk this way. Ultimately, before I proclaim the Biebs and Harry as incarnating everything wrong with music and pop culture today, I have to remember that what they’re singing about isn’t anything new; the only thing that has changed are the styles of pants they wear and the routes they climbed to the pinnacle of pop.