

Emily Kaplan
Writing 220
Repurposing Proposal

I am considering two different assignments to repurpose for this project. As I scrolled through old papers waiting for something to catch my eye, I stumbled across a response I wrote senior year of high school answering the question *what do serial killers tell us about society?* Seeing as my passion for learning about serial killers remains as strong today as when I completed that assignment, I made a mental note to consider repurposing my “serial killer” paper. The other essay in the running is a research paper I wrote freshmen year at Michigan arguing for the abolition of the death penalty. I am equally as interested in writing about capital punishment as I am learning about serial killers, so I’m struggling to decide between the two.

If I choose to write about serial killers, my exigency for doing so would revolve around the composer (myself) as well as the context. Repurposing this paper would allow me to learn more about serial killers—or a specific serial killer—than I ever have and I do not know if I can pass up that opportunity. In terms of context, people today can’t turn on the television without seeing a show about serial killers or agents chasing killers (think *Dexter*, *The Blacklist*, *Criminal Minds*). People must have some interest in these criminals or the shows would not be so popular. My audience for this paper would be anyone remotely intrigued by the habits and histories of serial killers; it would be published online (maybe on a criminology website) to be easily accessible. In order to effectively repurpose this paper, I must do a substantial amount of research on the serial killer I choose to write about. At this stage, I’m still deciding whether I want to write this paper in third-person as a biography, or if I want to write it in first-person in the voice of a serial killer. If I choose

the latter, I plan to watch videos of my serial killer in order to successfully adopt his voice. Either way, if I plan to format the piece to fit a specific website, I need to ensure that it follows the layout of other essays on that site.

If I choose to write about capital punishment, my exigency for repurposing would stem from how I strongly I feel about it. I believe the death penalty does far more harm than good and especially today—when incarceration rates in America are higher than anywhere else in the world—the general population needs to hear about the faults in our justice system (notably, the death penalty). I plan to repurpose this essay as a closing argument in a litigation trial directed at a jury and judge in order to expose evidence while adding a creative component that my research paper lacked. In doing this, the project would never actually be published; it would only be spoken. Considering I have already completed a twenty-page research paper on the topic, I would not need to do more research about the death penalty. That being said, I would want to look at examples of closing arguments to ensure that I have written a realistic statement.

Serial Killers:

Subject/topic: A serial killer (Still deciding which one)

Audience: Anyone who shows an interest

Genre/medium: Creative nonfiction (biography) or realistic fiction (autobiography)

Context: Internet (In a time where people seem to be obsessed with both criminals and technology)

Exigency: Composer and context

Constraints: Not having the time to find all the information I need

Capital Punishment:

Subject: Abolition of the death penalty

Audience: Jury and judge

Genre/medium: Persuasive nonfiction/closing argument

Context: Courtroom

Exigency: Composer and audience

Constraints: I've never actually heard a closing argument!