

## Proofreading/Editing/Writing Sample – Graduate School Letter of Intent

To whom it may concern,

I see media as a wind up clock, multiple parts moving on their own and in concert with each other to create something bigger than themselves. We consume media every day in so many forms that most people are unaware of it. Working in media, one has the opportunity to collaborate, create, influence and affect.

One of the first things that drew me to The New School's Media Studies program is it's history with the work of John M. Culkin and the fact that his ideas laid much of the foundation for this program. Cullin saw the value in media as an immense learning tool and thus encouraged people, especially youths, to analyze the media that they consume. This is a concept that appeals to me, as someone who uses mixed media to educate both children and adults in my current position as a science instructor. Culkin's work has had a direct impact on my life, as I grew up watching Sesame Street and look forward to my own children doing the same. His advisement to the Children's Television Workshop as they created Sesame Street, grounded in a philosophy of the importance of actively engaging children with richly educational media, has had a positive impact and influence on many generations, and it is the type of work I aspire to be a part of.

The prospect of using the concepts, and technical training that I will receive in my classes and then being able to put them into practice on projects that I can share with the public is exciting, especially with the diverse toolbox that is accessible through the New School. A personal project I have wanted to do is a documentary called 'The tropic of Manhattan' which is inspired by my late father, who was born in Puerto Rico, and who showed me gardens, green spaces, and clubhouses throughout the vacant lots of New York's Loisaida neighborhood in a desire to bring an atmosphere of the Caribbean Commonwealth to Manhattan. The tools from a course like Film Distribution & New Media would be valuable in ensuring a work like this could reach as many audiences as possible with the goal of generating an interest in fostering more green spaces in New York City and other metropolitan areas.

I have worked hard to create my own works as well as helping others on their projects, from short films and theater productions to podcasts, all with limited resources. The time and effort that I put into these projects is also part of why I have decided to pursue a masters in Media Studies at the New School; it is time for me to get the education, training and hands-on experience I need to support and advance the work that I already do. The opportunity to have access to the stellar faculty, engaging courses, professional equipment and software, is precisely what I need to accomplish that goal.

The diversity in knowledge and professional experience among the faculty within the Media Studies program is impressive. From award winning film directors, writers, and editors, photographers and installation artists to composers, production company CEOs and people on

the cutting edge of the industry using new dynamic platforms for creation like robotics. The breadth of the program, due to the faculty, will open my mind, creativity and take my work to levels previously unimagined. Doing is the only road to mastery, and guidance from professionals active in their fields is endlessly valuable. Also, on a personal level, I appreciate the racial and ethnic diversity of the faculty and student body. The New School is so much a part of New York City and as a Latino male and native New Yorker, the fact that the school and this masters program strives to reflect diversity in all forms is welcome.

The dynamic nature of the Media Studies courses is a large part of what makes it so attractive. A course like Storytelling Across Media is precisely the level of multidisciplinary study I find engaging, especially as someone who appreciates old, new, and nontraditional forms of narrative. The chance to gain the full set of skills for film editing from the class Editing Art & Practice is paramount, as I enjoy the process of that work, and admire it's importance(which I feel is often overlooked) in the grand scheme of film making. With Storytelling Across Media the chance to learn and experiment with mixed mediums is important to my own goals as I try to build a strong link between the culture blog and podcast I already work on. My desire to expand in to film and video, is why courses in editing would be enriching and informative as I believe that the final product of a film that audiences see is drastically shaped by an editor's hand.

One of the most valuable things that I think comes with this program being part of The New School is the thread of extrospection philosophy that I see flowing through all branches of the school. I find a deep sense of connection in that desire to take in all that the cultures of the world have to offer, and knowing that we are all attempting to answer the same questions through different methodology.

Above all others cities in the world, New York will always capture my imagination and provide me with the most unexpected inspiration. The city's nature is hard scrabble, yet rich in spite of it, which makes it an endless realm of possibilities. Personally the location is prime for me, as many of the collaborators that I have worked with in the past are New York based, allowing great access to developing, and established artists, as well as extended networks of people to work with. There are a great number of professional opportunities, and internships that I would like to pursue, including HBO, WNYC, Marvel, and Rockstar NYC.

The already proven and developing viability of mixed media through user created content on platforms as humble(initially) as YouTube prove their worth. The Khan Academy, a supplemental video based education program, began as a simple way for one man to teach his nephew remotely through recorded lessons, is now used by hundreds of teachers and students to enrich and facilitate greater classroom and home learning. For me this is a wonderful example of the relevance and importance of media; a simple goal, combined with added audio and visual components, leads to the enrichment of countless others.

A multidisciplinary program is important to me because there is value to be found in all forms. In the last few years I worked on several projects including a mixed media stage work with the Basic Engineering Collective called Tell Them Nothing sourced from Paul Collins' book

'The Murder of The Century.' This was an extraordinary project to work on as it combined conceptual video and scoring to create a fully atmospheric work. I am the audio editor for the Loaded Dice Podcast, as well as the editor in chief for the companion blog. Loaded Dice has been a labor a love as it is a culture show that I strongly connect with. The supplemental blog was a way to continuously reach out to our audience and build a community of like-minded people.

The program in Media Studies at The New School gives me the opportunity to explore and learn how all of the various parts of the wind up clock I described at the beginning of this letter. In doing so, I will have what I need to make manifest my goals to create positive change through collaborative endeavors in multimedia with others in the field by combining artistry, technical mastery, and a sense of responsibility for the work that I put out into the world. As a student and graduate of this program, my future work in the industry, based in the education I receive, will well represent the Media Studies program, The New School, my community and myself.

Sincerely,