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English
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Humorist Study

Analysis

For my Humorist Study I chose comedians, Sacha Baron Cohen and Eric Andre. Both of these comedians are very well known and respected in the world of comedy. Sacha Baron Cohen is well known for his performance acts and pranks. His most well known character has to be Borat, a reporter from Kazakhstan who comes to America to teach his country about American life. Cohen is an expert at performance art, and is able to fool people very easily. Cohen's ability to get into character and deliver these very offensive jokes always makes me laugh. By getting into characters like Borat, Bruno, Ali G, and others Cohen makes the joke not targeted at him, but gets bystanders to react to his character and make his stereotypical impressions work. By using random people on the street, famous politicians, and even entire arenas Cohen uses his comedic abilities to make people look ridiculous. My favorite example of this is in his HBO show, *Who is America?*, where Cohen disguises himself as an "Anti-Terrorist Instructor". He gets Georgia politician, Jason Spencer, to do these very unusual "anti-terrorism" tactics. Some of these tactics included Jason Spencer yelling very bad racial slurs, doing stereotypical impressions of Asian people, using a selfie stick to take pictures under a woman's burka, and exposing his butt. By pranking people Cohen makes the joke about the person and not his character.

My next comedian is Eric Andre. I've been a fan of Andre since middle school when I discovered *The Eric Andre Show*. Andre frames this show as a normal talk show, but this show is anything but normal. He has a very dark sense of humor, and his co-host Hannibal Burrese exploits that to Andre's advantage. Casually blowing up his entire set, shooting his co-host, and pranking his guests are normal events in his show. Andre utilizes shock humor, black comedy, and lots of improv. One of my favorite sketches is "Bird-Up!" where Andre goes around in public wearing a skin tight green costume with a fake bird on his shoulder. He tells the people to talk to the bird and pretend he isn't there. While they talk to the bird he will go up to the people and try to make them as uncomfortable as possible.

Both of these comedians are pioneers in the world of black comedy and bringing it into the mainstream. Cohen and Andre both use similar types of comedy. While Andre is more focused on sketch comedy for his performance acts, Cohen usually frames his work not as sketches but rather stays in character for his movies in the real world.

Reflection

The inspiration for my project “650 ACADEMY” comes from the absurd humor that Cohen and Andre create. I really want to exploit the ridiculousness of these comedians and make sure that people know that we are ironic when we talk about our struggle living in Mountain View. Another slight inspiration for our project is the band *Lonely Island*. Lonely Island makes songs entirely out of ridiculous situations. For example here are a couple of the names for songs they have made: “I Just Had Sex”, “I’m on a Boat”, and “Motherlover”. All of their comedy comes out of lyrics and quirky music videos. These early 2010 music videos were some of my favorite videos growing up.

Another inspiration for our music is the group called *Shoreline Mafia*. They’re a rap group from Los Angeles. The look of their videos is the biggest inspiration for the overall look for our video, but we want to put a Mountain View twist on it. A big music video to end my Freestyle career is perfect in my eyes. Since middle school my friends and I have always done freestyling for fun, but writing a song about Mountain View is something completely different. These two groups, *Lonely Island* and *Shoreline Mafia* will inspire me in my music writing.

Bibliography

[Every Bird Up on The Eric Andre Show | adult swim - YouTube](#)

[Official Clip ft. Jason Spencer | Ep.2 | Who Is America?](#)

[I'm On A Boat \(Explicit Version\) ft. T-Pain \(Official Video\)](#)

[Nun Major - Shoreline Mafia](#)

1.) Are you collaborating with others? Yes* or No
Yes, Milo, Tai, and Yhali.

2.) Which form of humor are you planning to develop? (See [menu](#).)
Planning to make a very ironic song

3.) What is the subject (or, in the case of satire, the target)? Why did you choose this subject?
Our subject is “Hood rap” and planning to make fun of the nice place we live in through a music video

4.) Which comedic [tools/techniques](#) do you plan to use, and why? (List at least 3 main ones and explain briefly how you plan to use them):

In our lyrics we are planning to use irony, satire, and wordplay. These three comedic tools will help us deliver our jokes in our music without being taken seriously.

5.) Why do you think this is the right humor project for you? (If you have a group, can you assure me that everyone is invested in this idea and you won't have trouble getting everyone to contribute meaningfully?) What makes you excited about this idea? What are some potential pitfalls you wish to avoid?

This is the perfect opportunity for my group to display what we have learned throughout our freestyle careers. We can use the humor we have learned with our rapping skills to create an amazing song, then finish it off with our film and cinematography skills to make a bomb music video.

6.) If you get approval, what's your next step?

Finish our lyrics, get in the studio, make our video.