

Thoughts and feelings Global Sonic Cultures

Please don't mistake this for a reflective writing piece, this is intended to solely be my thoughts. Informal and unfiltered.

For this unit, we had to write a 1500-word essay about a critical contextualisation and analysis of a sonic case study of my choice. I have always been interested in Eurovision and the vast amount of genres and artists that are featured. A song that I always particularly liked was Shum by Go_A. 2021 was very much the year of ballads and pop hits so Shum was a massive standout for me. It was like a breath of fresh air after a sea of pop songs. For these reasons, I chose to look into this song for my essay.

While watching Eurovision in 2021, I felt a strong emotional reaction to this song. I was fascinated by the instruments used and the staging. The song was unlike anything I'd heard before. It was authentic and refreshing. While writing the essay, I'd often have Eurovision performances playing in the background. Even now, I'm listening to Je me casse - Malta 2021. Good song.



Go_A's Shum Staging for Eurovision 2021

While researching for the essay, I spent a lot of time reading through the [Ukrainian encyclopedia](#). That website had a load of information about Ukraine, its history and culture. It was fascinating to just click on random topics and read through them. I spent at least 4 hours just reading about the Haidamaka uprisings of the 18th century. This, obviously, wasn't relevant to my essay but it was still interesting to learn more about Ukraine. Here's the link to that: [Haidamaka uprisings](#). I'd recommend reading through that page. It's fascinating. While researching, I also was able to use various online book/ article pages; JSTOR and Google Scholar were my main resources.

This essay was the first research essay that I'd done since about 2018 so it was hard to get into a formal academic mindset; I had to go over my essay multiple times and change words to be more formal. Luckily, my mother and brother are both very grammatically advanced people, so I was able to get them to check over various versions of my essay. It was very hard to write this essay as I struggle with writing formally and referencing my work as I go but I have created an essay that I am ultimately very proud of. I have learnt skills that I will use for both the rest of my university days and, hopefully, my career.