

Sophia Dupree Literary Journalism Review

This heartbreaking recollection of a flood written by Sophia Dupree shares the account of her experience after a devastating natural event impacts her economically and emotionally in the aftermath. The piece was very clean in description, and concluded the narrator's perspective well by wrapping it up with an appropriate afterthought that explains their current views on past events.

I particularly liked the reference to Waffle House, because it also indirectly made a connection to the FEMA Waffle House index, which gives both emergency responders and civilians a good understanding of disaster severity. The Waffle House was open, which indicated disaster, but also hope, and the reference is foreshadowing for the events that the author would later experience.

The short article describes a harrowing firsthand account of how natural disasters can impact a person's life as trauma, but concludes on a high note to show the positive aspects that can demonstrate the light that comes after that darkness.

Chloe Merwin Literary Journalism Review

The nostalgic tone of this piece, "Is Being an Artist Becoming a Commodity for the Wealthy?" by Chloe Merwin, presents readers with a personalized assessment of events that the author/narrator experienced to their educational history and their relationship to art as a potential career.

I liked this narrative for its explicit awareness of the narrator's perspective on events, especially when the writing juxtaposed the standards of a typical American education with the education given at Interlochen. It reminded me of my own experience with specialized educational tracks that I took when I was in high school and how art is a very subjective field and approached very differently academically speaking compared to standard fields like math and science.

One issue I did have with this piece is that it feels like the author lost direction with the initial point of the piece by including all of the personal narrative that they did. Upon reading through the article, there were clear points assessing how the education system has removed art from their curriculums, minimizing lower-class access to fine arts programs. But an attempt to document a lot of the historical, personal experience that the author has, they also subjected the reader to misplaced personal guilt that muddled the point of the media.

As a whole, this piece did a nice job of describing the issue with the American educational system that classifies the art field, but could have done with some more refinement for the personal content that distracted from the main point.