

Self-Assessment: “Ali Speaks”

This self-assessment focuses on the Civil Rights tradition of Muhammad Ali, channeled through the music of Christian McBride and an included dialogue of Ali spoken by Dion Graham, and how he sought to fight against the pervasive racism of the United States at the time. In my drafting stage, choosing what metaphors and main themes I wanted to analyze were my main problems—honing in on main ideas was difficult with the monologue being spoken with different kinds of emotions while also attacking several main ideas at once.

Use of a drafting stage was key, allowing me to center on iconic personality traits on Muhammad Ali. As much as he was a fighter, he was also a kind of “people’s person” and knew how to touch their hearts with humor, which became my first body paragraph. He was also deeply religious as a Muslim—prayer and perseverance became hand-in-hand for the mighty boxer and became my second body paragraph. Above all, he was a visionary leader; whenever he spoke, it was as if he were attempting to knockout his opponent. A focus on his prowess as a leader and how it was shown in the monologue also became a key focus.

Included below is a screenshot of my drafting stage:

