

# **WRITING SAMPLES**

## **DANIELLE (WRIGHT) STEWART**

---

Published to <http://www.loveliestvillage.org/journal> during  
Writing for Public Relations class at Auburn University.  
(Published under maiden name Wright)

### **Can Football Crowd Be Too Loud?**

<http://www.loveliestvillage.org/journal/2006/10/24/can-football-crowd-be-too-loud/>

October 24th, 2006

October 14th the Auburn Tigers upset more than just the Florida Gators football team and fans. The SEC was also upset by excessive noise in Jordan-Hare Stadium.

The week following the game, the SEC sent a warning to Auburn University, stating that they violated conference rules by blaring music between plays. According to [www.al.com/sportsflash/auburn](http://www.al.com/sportsflash/auburn), the SEC rule states, "The use of institutionally-controlled computerized sound systems, including music, and institutionally-controlled artificial noisemakers shall be restricted to pre-game, halftime, post-game, after a score and team or media timeouts."

This season, Auburn has played snippets from the songs "Eye of the Tiger" and "Crazy Train" to help excite the crowd and make them louder. During the Florida game, the songs were allegedly played too often. This caused problems for the Florida offense during huddles.

Jason Stewart, a free lance sports writer for the Columbus Ledger-Enquirer, explains, "It is unfair to the other team. They can't hear the quarterback call audible to change the play. NFL teams get in trouble for it all the time."

This is not the first time an opposing team has had trouble in Auburn. During one game, South Carolina had to use two timeouts to plan one play because of the deafening noise level. Anyone who has been to Jordan-Hare Stadium on game day knows how intimidating it can be. The stadium becomes one of the largest cities in Alabama. The Tigers have a .798 winning percentage at home. Fans in Jordan-Hare Stadium do not hold back.

Some Auburn students and fans do not see what the problem is. To them, the noise is not unfair; it is just part of the football experience.

Christin Davis, a senior at Auburn states, "I didn't even notice the music playing during Florida huddles or anything. The crowd itself was so loud you could barely hear the music anyway. I didn't really feel like it was excessively loud."

Season ticket holder, Jennifer Jones says, “I just think it’s ridiculous! The whole point of going to a ball game is to get excited. I think it’s a stupid rule, I can’t believe they would actually fine you for being too loud. It’s a football stadium; you’re supposed to make noise!”

Most Auburn fans do not seem too concerned with the warning. For a school that puts a lot of emphasis on football, the warning comes across as more of a compliment. After all, can a football stadium really get too loud?

## **NASCAR Internship in New York City**

<http://www.loveliestvillage.org/journal/2006/10/10/nascar-internship-in-new-york-city/>

October 10, 2006

For Auburn University students in the department of communication and journalism, an internship is required for graduation. Students can choose to intern locally or away, part-time or full time. Jenna Crawford chose to intern for NASCAR in their New York City office.

Before graduating in August 2006, Crawford headed to the city that never sleeps for ten weeks over the summer. She found out about the internship from someone who worked with her dad in sports marketing.

“That person had a contact who works for NASCAR in the New York office, so we sent my resume and cover letter out. I had a few phone interviews and a lot of paperwork to fill out. I did not meet with them in New York before I got the internship because I had personal references.” Crawford explains.

Before leaving for the internship, Crawford had only visited New York twice, for a few days each trip. She knew a few Auburn alumni and friends who were also interning in the city. Although she became homesick a few times, the experience was positive overall.

Crawford says, “I loved how the city never sleeps. It is always bright and exciting with things to do: Yankees games, shopping, Broadway, museums, SoHo and trendy bars and cafes. The city atmosphere is very unique.”

Along with all the fun in the city, Crawford had many responsibilities during her internship. She worked on research projects and assisted in creating customized proposals for potential corporate sponsors. She also researched sponsors and created and updated presentations for her managers.

“I also had to create taglines, slogans and possible promotional concepts that combined NASCAR and the potential sponsor.” Crawford adds.

Of course, Crawford came back from New York with some crazy stories to share. “I almost got my phone stolen in the park. I actually chased the guy down while yelling very loudly and got it back.” Crawford says. She adds that one guy who helped her stop the thief ended up going on a few dates with her roommate who was in the park with her. “Not a smart decision to chase a thief down, but it worked.” she adds.

Crawford said her favorite thing about the internship was the learning experience of how NASCAR sponsors are acquired and the work that goes into it. “The people who I worked with were awesome.” she states.

A few perks came along with the internship as well. Crawford went to the Pocono race in Pennsylvania and watched the qualifying session in the pits. “I met Richard Childress, owner of Richard Childress Racing (RCR) and toured Jeff Burton’s trailer. There was also a sponsored after-party where we mixed and mingled with the NASCAR officials.” Crawford said. She also got to see a sneak preview of *Talladega Nights the Ballad of Ricky Bobby* with the office.

Going from a small college town to a huge city was quite a transition. “Auburn versus New York, like night and day. There is a lot more to do in New York and a lot more people, oh yeah, tons of taxis and no trucks.” Crawford laughs.

When asked to give some advice to Auburn students currently looking for internships or preparing to start theirs, Jenna responds, “My advice is to get out and go for what you want to do as a career! Go and experience new things and challenge yourself. Living in a new place and meeting new people might seem hard, but it will be far more rewarding in the long run. A few months out of your life, especially while you are young is the best thing you can do to become more knowledgeable about the world and the people in it. There is a lot out there, experience something new. It will be worth it!”

All pictures property of Jenna Crawford

---

## **Midterm Stress**

<http://www.loveliestvillage.org/journal/2006/10/03/midterm-stress/>

October 3, 2006

For approximately two weeks there is a cloud of stress that falls over Auburn University. The library is a little more crowded and the campus is full of students who look a little more frazzled than usual. There is a buzz of complaints before and after classes about three or four tests in a week and long papers due. These two weeks are midterms. Everyone becomes a little less happy, and more on edge. The more homework assigned, the more sighs in response. College in general is a stressful time, but for those two weeks there truly are not enough hours in a day.

At the beginning of each semester, Auburn University students prepare for approximately four months of reading, lectures, projects and tests. About two months into the hard work, midterms begin. Stressful is an understatement for these tests.

For finals, we are given time to study. Dead days are devoted to no classes, longer library hours and ample study time. Students have about a week of tests to prepare for, then a long break for recovery. Midterms are often just as demanding as finals. However, students are not given extra study time or less class time.

As nerve-racking as finals are, with a goal of locking down a good final grade to boost our G.P.A., midterms are just as difficult. These tests give a forecast for the next half of the semester. Unfortunately, there is often little time to prepare, and plenty of distractions.

In the fall semester, midterm marks the middle of something else vital to the Auburn University experience: football. When weekdays are devoted to classes, jobs and volunteer work and weekends are spent tailgating and watching the big game, there is little time left to feel truly prepared for the big midterm exam.

“I have two midterms next week. Through working thirty hours this week and volunteering at the Boys and Girls Club, I am not going to be as prepared as I would like to be. Next week will not be fun.” states Kathy Haywood, a junior in secondary math education.

Students are constantly told to get the full effect of college. Focus on academics, but have a social life and be involved with your school. We are advised to take part in volunteer work and extracurricular activities to fill our resumes. Many students are working to pay for their tuition or books. Some feel pressured to finish on time and load themselves with hours.

Erin Golden, a sophomore in interior design explains, “I am taking 17 hours, so all I do is study or work on projects. I have at least one test every week as well as lab work and compositions. I can’t wait until December!”

Obviously, college is not supposed to be a breeze. It is a professor’s job to challenge students. It is a student’s job to learn how to manage time and multi task. Still, midterms are certainly taking their toll on all students.

Laura Leigh Pierce, a freshman majoring in education states, “The pressure to make good grades in order to receive scholarship money for the next semester is ever present on my mind which adds extra stress.”

“It is very stressful to have a paper due and then as soon as you turn in the paper you are handed the midterm.” adds Hope Churchwell, a junior in elementary education.

As difficult as these two weeks of midterms may be, students work through them, complaints and all. When the cramming is finished and the tests are graded, we expect the worst and hope for the best. With any luck, when it’s all done, students will be better prepared for the stress and challenges the real world has in store.

---

## **Auburn Graduate Publishes Novel**

<http://www.loveliestvillage.org/journal/2006/09/26/auburn-graduate-publishes-novel/>

September 26, 2006

To have a book published at the age of 24 is an accomplishment many people can only dream about. For Auburn graduate Anthony Mooney, this dream became a reality.

Mooney originally planned to attend Florida State and major in film. However, during a campus tour at Auburn, he stood on top of Haley Center and decided Auburn was the place for him. When Mooney began college, his major was Radio/Television/Film, but something just wasn't right. After three years of confusion and random classes he made a change.

"All along, and for no reason, I had been taking English classes that I didn't need for that major. I loved literature, and writing, and reading the great authors of the past. I decided the night before the fall 2003 semester started, that I was going to teach English and focus on writing," Mooney states.

Mooney always enjoyed working around young people. He wanted to bring back an appreciation for the lost art of reading, writing and grammar. The choice to teach was a good one. Mooney says, "Sometimes school is the only stable, reliable source in a kid's life. I see that everyday, and it's a huge, satisfying reward."

For Mooney, reading and writing go hand in hand. Throughout his childhood he read "Goosebumps", by R.L. Stine and "Jurassic Park" among many other books. He was constantly reading. Mooney explains, "I read in the car, at school, at home. I would read into the night, and be tired the next morning when I went to school."

"Reading is so valuable. I credit reading for the establishment of good writing skills. They're directly related." Mooney adds.

Mooney began writing early in life. In first grade he wrote his first story. "Mickey's Birthday Party" was a story about a surprise party for Mickey Mouse, given by Minnie, Goofy and Donald. As Mickey arrived, a cat ran into the house, prompting a chase by Pluto, and the birthday cake was ruined.

He continued to write novels and screenplays throughout high school. Mooney won the Most Promising Young Screenwriter Award in 2000. Mooney sustained his writing in college. He completed an adaptation for a screenplay from the novel, "Across Five Aprils."

"That's one of my biggest accomplishments. Writing for film is one of my next avenues," Mooney says.

Just after Christmas 2006, Mooney began working on a new novel, “The Yellow Man Was Here.” By June, the book was in stores.

Mooney explains what inspired this novel, “My favorite author and biggest inspiration is Jack Kerouac. I had just finished reading “On the Road”, for the seventh time and the story struck some chords. This wasn’t the same America that Kerouac described. A lot of things had changed, and I was hanging onto some of those romantic notions in light of the truth staring me in the face. I was preparing for a road trip across the country to Oregon, and the story just kind of came right out of the pattern of thoughts involved with all those new realizations. You can see a lot of my struggles in Lucas, the main character, as he compares modern America to Kerouac’s America.”

The original idea for the story came to Mooney in early December while driving. That night, he told a friend the entire plot from start to finish. Once he began writing, he continued chapter by chapter, and finished in May. Along the way he sent the publishing company the first three chapters. Just before Valentine’s Day Mooney received an acceptance letter; his novel would be published.

Mooney’s writing style is unique. Unlike some writers, he doesn’t need absolute silence while writing. He prefers to play some good folk rock and uses the music as background inspiration.

According to Mooney, “I wrap a lot of different styles into my own. Something about me is that I like fragments and short, precise language. I also love metaphors. I like to write passively, on purpose. For someone who has an intense love of literature and grammar, people may find it ironic that I believe that in art you should strive to be unique. And for me, I think that involves a little deviation from the respected norm.”

He is already working on his next project. “My Brother’s Keeper” started as a novel, but is currently being converted to screenplay format. This story will be very different from his last novel. “My Brother’s Keeper” is about obsession and secrets. Mooney says, “It’s a thriller, I’ll tell you that much. One brother has many secrets, and he’s dying to be like the golden boy brother. It’s a tale of mystery, suspense, and has an element of strangeness.”

Although this story differs greatly from his first, Mooney’s focus is once again on the relationship between brothers. He explains, “There’s always been a lot of focus on the relationship between sisters. There isn’t much on the connection between brothers. There is a bond there that is often overlooked.”

Being a full time teacher limits Mooney’s writing time, but also helps to enforce the grammar. He is also constantly introduced to new authors and new literature. Mooney writes mainly on the weekends. “I like Sunday evenings. It’s a quiet time to unwind and write,” he says.



Mooney gives some advice to anyone interested in writing. "Write with honesty and integrity. Never write what is expected of you. If you feel uncomfortable writing something that means it is good. I had a hard time writing some of the conflicts between the boys and their father in "The Yellow Man Was Here", but it was honest and real. Sincerity is the best quality in writing, not well perfected grammar or organization. The best writing comes with raw emotion."

---

## **Auburn Graduate Returns to Former High School to Teach**

<http://www.loveliestvillage.org/journal/2006/09/19/auburn-graduate-returns-to-former-high-school-to-teach/>

September 19, 2006

As a member of the Auburn graduating class of 2006, Justin Myrick had little trouble deciding where his future career would take him. Myrick took his degree in secondary Spanish education and headed back to his old high school.

The easy choices have abounded over the years for Myrick. Throughout his childhood, he knew he wanted to teach. He grew up an Auburn fan and always knew he would come to the university. At Camp War Eagle he declared his major and stuck with it.

“However, it wasn’t until I was in high school that I actually wanted to teach high-schoolers.” Myrick says.

Although Myrick did his student teaching at Opelika High School and enjoyed working there, he went back to Smiths Station High School. Myrick states, “SSHS is home to me. The faculty, staff, and students are great! I could not imagine or see myself working anywhere else.”

So far, Myrick has not dealt with any discipline or disrespect problems. According to Myrick, “Most of my students do not already know me; therefore, it is not hard for them to see me as the authority figure even though I am only four years older than some of them.” His proximity in age is even seen as beneficial. Myrick adds, “I think that my proximity helps a lot. I am not that far from where they are, which gives me the ability to connect to them and I still know where they are. This helps a lot in how I deal with situations that may arise.”

Myrick feels his teaching style is a compilation of styles from several teachers and professors that he had throughout high school and college. However, he feels most of the methods he uses are ones that he was taught or observed while in classes at Auburn University.

“The most effective method I use with my students is the care strategy. I always show my students that I care about them and I care about their successes. In doing this, I am able to show them the respect that they deserve which encourages them to show me the respect that I deserve.” Myrick says.

Of course, teaching at his former high school has the ups and downs that can be expected of any job. While he loves working with some of his former teachers, many who inspired him to become a teacher, the school has its drawbacks. “The hardest, most

aggravating thing is the fact that our campus is so spread out and it takes so long to get anywhere!" Myrick states.

Teaching in general has its ups and downs as well. Myrick loves the interaction with his students. "There is nothing I love more than being able to interact with all of the different personalities and stories that walk through my door daily. They all truly brighten my day and give me a reason for coming to work each day. Being able to look at them and see the light bulbs go off is worth every ounce of stress." he says. However, Myrick is not a fan of the documentation, grading and other paperwork that is required of him daily.

Through all of Myrick's experiences in this first semester of teaching high school Spanish, many lessons have been learned. Myrick advises, "The most valuable lesson...there is not just one. Stay organized, start off tough, meet deadlines, put away all past thoughts you have of a student, start them all off with a fresh start, treat everyone equally, and have fun!"

---

## **Auburn Student Returns From the Happiest Place on Earth**

<http://www.loveliestvillage.org/journal/2006/09/12/auburn-student-returns-from-the-happiest-place-on-earth/>

September 12, 2006

Ryan Noonan, a senior in communication, spent his spring and summer with some famous mice, ducks, dogs and princesses. He spent two semesters working for the Walt Disney World college program.

This program is a one-of-a-kind, Disney-designed combination of education and work experience. Disney visits college campuses each year recruiting students to take part in their program. Their visit is what originally got Noonan's attention.

"I remember seeing it advertised around school. I thought it'd be a great opportunity, so I applied for it and I got in." Noonan says.

He was located in Disney World from January 18 to August 11. Throughout those seven months, Noonan worked hard, got paid, and was able to stay in the Disney-owned apartment complex, along with other college program students.

Although he did not know anyone before entering the program, Noonan made numerous friends and describes the experience as one of the best times of his life. Noonan says, "I loved it. The best thing was that I worked with just a great group of people."

Still, there were difficulties throughout this program. While he was glad to work with great people, he also states, "At the same time that was bad because I worked with my friends and that creates the potential for problems. Also, dealing with rude guests sucked!"

Noonan got the chance to work at the Disney/MGM studios back lot tour. He first worked as the special effects stunt director/coordinator. Later in his stay he was moved to the other section of the attraction and gave the tour. He got tons of valuable experience working with the technical aspects of the rides, as well as skills dealing with those unhappy guests.

The Walt Disney college program will be visiting the Auburn campus once again this year. Presentations will be given at 11:00 A.M. and 6:00 P.M. on October 3. Interested students must attend a presentation to be eligible for the program. Students must also fill out an application which can be found at [www.wdwcollegeprogram.com](http://www.wdwcollegeprogram.com).