

En attendant de traverser Forbes: Les histoires de devoirs

Artist's Statement

Life at Carnegie Mellon, while unique to each student, is punctuated by a few key classes that define the classic undergraduate experience. In this piece, a podcast I wrote and produced for 82-304, *French and Francophone Sociolinguistics* with Dr. Sebastian Dubreil, I attempted to pay homage to these as I have seen them through my peers' experiences and my own. While I acknowledge that many of these courses are extremely difficult and often quite stressful, my hope is that by framing this stress as something that is shared by others and by treating the subject with a bit of humor, I can encourage students to use humor and levity to cope and, possibly, feel less alone in their academic struggles.

This course was, overall, a study in expressing oneself in the French language primarily as a speaker and participant in the language rather than as a language learner. In the course, we studied three mediums: spoken-word poetry, storytelling, and podcasting. We first analyzed how these forms functioned in French, as well as how they communicated their information regardless of language, and then wrote our own takes on each. This particular assignment asked us to produce a podcast series recorded by the class as a whole, intended to showcase the CMU undergraduate experience. Through this, we practiced conveying information in an engaging way, using both our storytelling abilities and editing skills.

I find that I express myself differently between French and English, as is a common experience for bilingual people. Writing about the often-stressful undergraduate academic experience at CMU in French rather than English gave me a different, and somewhat more distant perspective, allowing me to appreciate the value of these intellectually rigorous classes.

Producing this podcast also allowed me to express myself more creatively than I previously had, as I was able to write in my own words and edit the podcast in my own style. As a physics student, the ability to be artistically, instead of mathematically, creative in my own work was refreshing, though a bit daunting. For the podcast, I settled on an informal conversational style of a student reflecting back on the classes they've taken and stories they've heard. I chose this form in order to reflect my own experiences. As the sole creator of this podcast, I realized I was not able to tell the story of every student here at CMU, but this is my attempt to draw upon and reflect the experiences of the variety of people I have encountered in my time here.

I hope that you, dear reader, will see a reflection of your experience in my work, and I hope that it may inspire you as well to better understand how others' experiences, our collective experiences, relate to your own.

- Nedjma Kalliney