
 HIST 119D: The Myth of the Superhero, Then and Now

AUTOBIOGRAPHIC COMIC BOOK
AUTOBIOGRAPHIC COMIC BOOK ANALYSIS
 WEEK 2 & 3

DUE DATES:		
AUTOBIOGRAPHIC COMIC BOOK	Friday, April 13 @ Midnight via Turnitin.com	3pt
AUTOBIOGRAPHIC COMIC BOOK ANALYSIS	Sunday, April 22 @ Midnight via Turnitin.com	3pt

ASSIGNMENT OBJECTIVES:

- Students will learn to contextualize a primary source by evaluating the characteristics and experiences of the protagonist.
- Students will learn to craft an informed and persuasive written argument about the context of a primary source by evaluating the characteristics and experiences of the protagonist.
- Students will explore the intersection between text and image and reflect on the power of visual storytelling.

AUTOBIOGRAPHIC COMIC BOOK

DUE: Friday, April 13 @ Midnight via Turnitin.com

Using **ComicLife 3** (<http://plasq.com/apps/comiclife/macwin/>) or your preferred software program, create a comic book chronicling your life experiences. You may choose from one of three prompts:

1. General autobiography (see sample below)
2. A typical day in your life (morning routine, commute, class, studying, grocery shopping, etc.)
3. An anecdote from your life (travel experience, funny and/or scary story, or other experience)

Your comic book should be **8-10 pages**, and include pictures and text. You can use personal photos or images from the internet.

You may use any comic book creation software. Please note that ComicLife 3 is available for a 30-day free trial download. After 30 days, all your work will display with a watermark unless you purchase the app. We will only be using the app for an assignment in Week 2, so you will not need to purchase the app.

Save your comic book as a **PDF file** before you upload it to Turnitin.com. If your file size is over 40MB, you will need to compress it. I recommend using an online PDF compressor such as **ilovepdf** (https://www.ilovepdf.com/compress_pdf).

NOTE: Your comic book may be shared with the class. If you do not want your comic to be shared, please clearly note that at the top of your assignment.

RUBRIC	
3pt	The assignment demonstrates care and effort. The student has spent time finding images and adding appropriate text. The relationship between the images, text, and storyline is clear and focused.
2pt	The assignment meets the minimum the requirements but demonstrates a lack of attention to detail. The relationship between the images, text, and storyline is sometimes unclear or lacks focus.
1pt	The assignment does not meet the minimum requirements. It is rushed and demonstrates little effort or care.
Opt	No submission

Before you complete this assignment, you may want to review the guidelines for the “Autobiographic Comic Book Analysis” (below).

AUTOBIOGRAPHIC COMIC BOOK ANALYSIS

DUE: Sunday, April 22 @ Midnight via Turnitin.com

On Monday, April 16, your TA will assign you an autobiographical comic book created by one of your classmates. Using the comic book as a primary source on life in early 21st-century Los Angeles, you will contextualize the experiences of the protagonist (i.e., your classmate) and make an informed conclusion about contemporary society (e.g. technology, consumer goods, communication, politics, education, family structure, etc.)

Begin by providing a brief **synopsis** of the plot of your classmate’s comic book. Then, make **three** claims about contemporary society based on evidence (text and/or image) from the comic book. Make sure to support your claims clearly. Show your reader how you arrived at the claim by using evidence from comic book. Be careful that you do not make any inferences that are not supported by material in the comic book. (*See example and notes below*).

Your analysis should be **800-1000 words**, double-spaced, 12pt font. Make sure to clearly state your thesis.

RUBRIC	
3pt	The assignment meets all the requirements, and demonstrates care and effort. The student provides an accurate synopsis and makes three claims supported by evidence from the comic book. The student has a clear thesis.
2pt	The assignment meets the minimum requirements but demonstrates a lack of attention to detail. The student provides a synopsis and makes three claims but does not persuasively support the claims with evidence from the comic book.
1pt	The assignment does not meet the minimum requirements. It is rushed and demonstrates little effort or care.
Opt	No submission

THE LIFE OF KRISTINA OF UCLA



...HELLO CLASS...

HERE BEGINS THE TALE OF KRISTINA.
ONE DAY IN A FAR AWAY LAND...



SHE'S
PERFECT



AND STINKY.



LIFE IS
DIFFICULT HERE. IT
WILL BE TOUGH TO
RAISE A CHILD.



KRISTINA'S LIFE STARTED OFF WITH SOME CHALLENGES...



IT WAS VERY COLD...

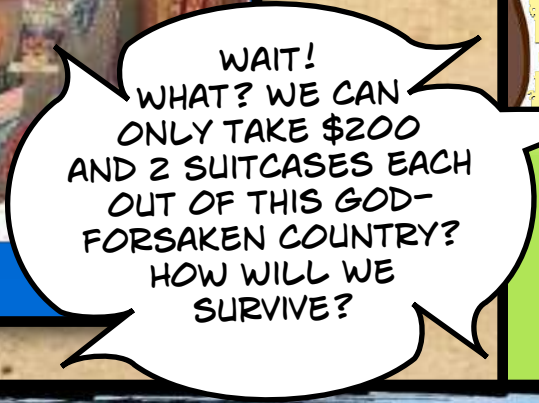
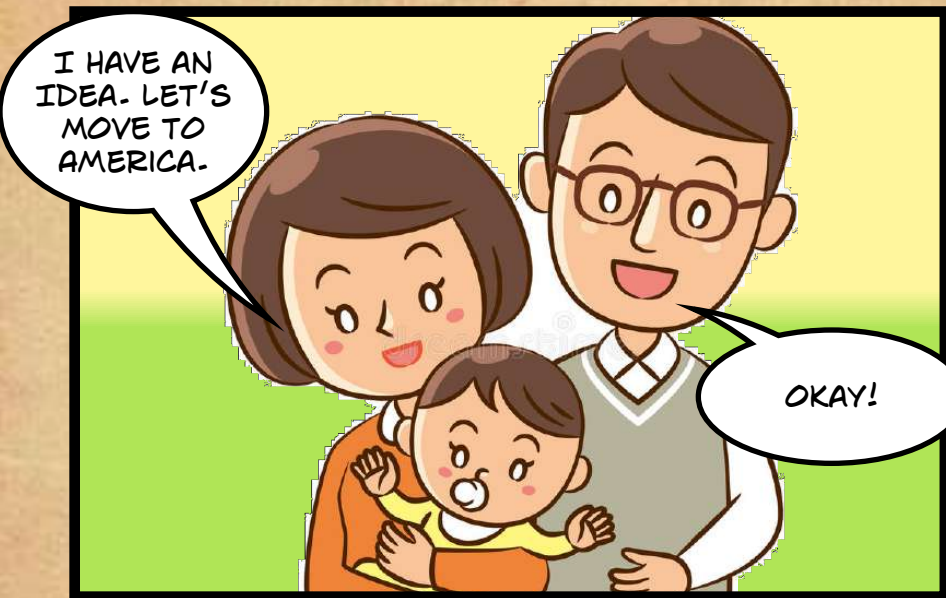


THE BREAD LINES WERE ALWAYS LONG...



EVEN THE TECHNOLOGY WAS SUPER OUTDATED.

БЕЕК!



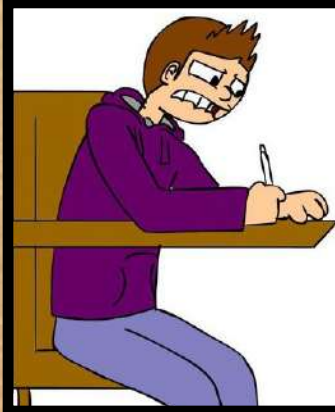
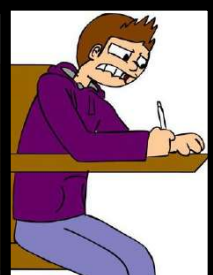


YES! BUT NOW WE NEED TO GET RECERTIFIED. OUR DEGREES DON'T COUNT HERE.

WE MADE IT!



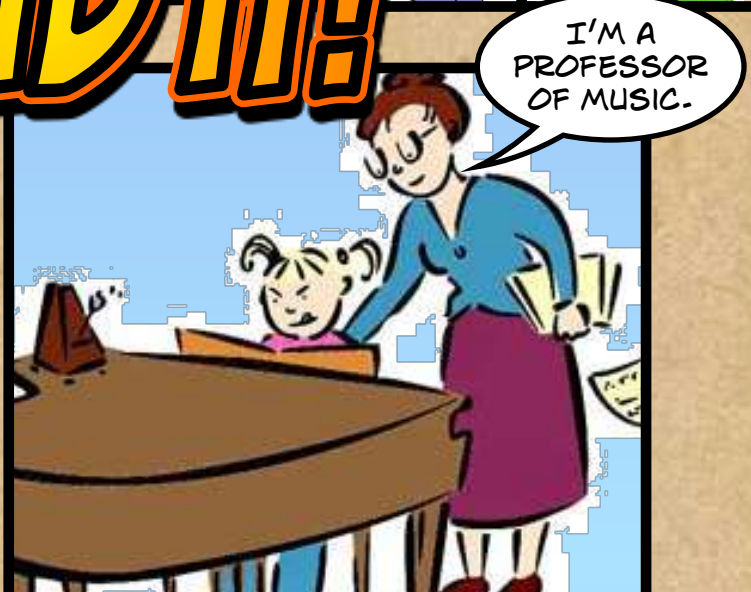
WE'LL DO IT AND SET A GOOD EXAMPLE FOR KRISTINA.



WE DID IT!



I'M A DOCTOR.



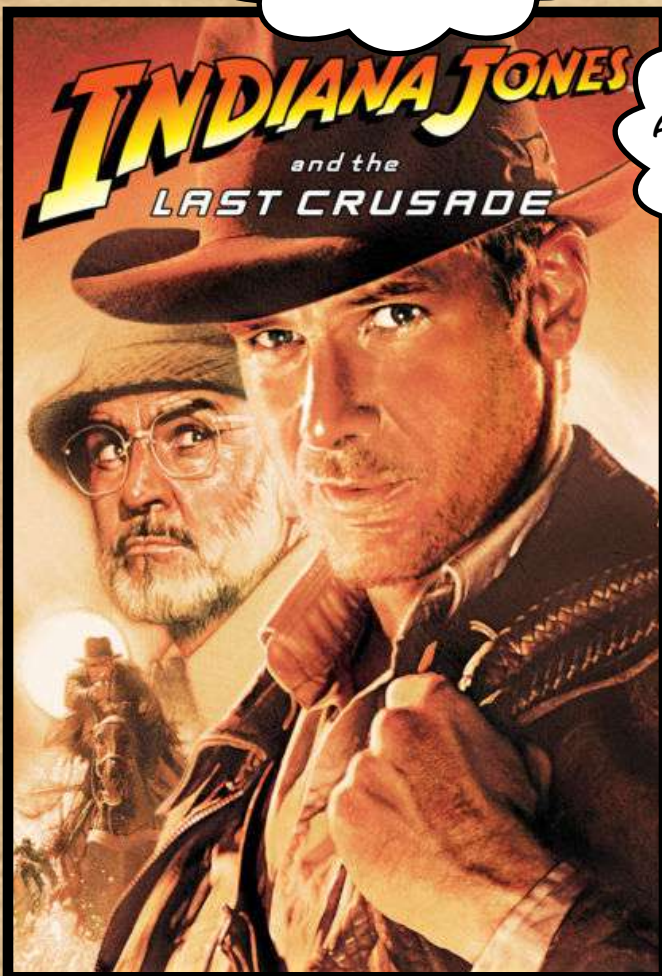
I'M A PROFESSOR OF MUSIC.

IT TOOK KRISTINA'S PARENTS 7 YEARS TO REESTABLISH THEMSELVES IN THE USA. MEANWHILE, KRISTINA...

WOW! THERE ARE
PEOPLE FROM ALL OVER
THE WORLD IN AMERICA. I
LOVE LEARNING ABOUT NEW
CULTURES.



INDIANA JONES IS
SO COOL. I WANT TO
BE JUST LIKE HIM
WHEN I GROW UP.



I KNOW
THAT IF I WORK
HARD, I CAN DO
ANYTHING BECAUSE MY
PARENTS REACHED
THEIR DREAMS IN
THE USA.





I DID IT! I'M INDIANA JONES! JUST WITHOUT THE ADVENTURING.

I CAN MAKE MY OWN ADVENTURES!

BAM!



Analysis of *The Life of Kristina of UCLA*

1. Synopsis

The *Life of Kristina of UCLA* is a biographic account of a girl who is born under a communist regime, presumably in the USSR. Seeing that there is no opportunity for their daughter in their home country, her parents decided to move to the United States. However, they were only allowed to take \$200 and two suitcases per person out of their home country. When they arrived in the United States, they struggle to reestablish themselves. Both her parents worked in the service industry as a janitor and house cleaner while attending school. Eventually her father became a doctor and her mother a professor of music. Kristina meanwhile established friendships with a diverse group of children. She learned to appreciate diversity and her desire to study other cultures was piqued by her experience and Western media. Inspired to see the world and learn more about world cultures, she pursued a degree in the social sciences (presumably history or archeology, but the primary source does not explicitly mention her field of study). After completing high school, college, and graduate school, Kristina became a university professor like her cinema role model, Dr. Indiana Jones. In her free time from teaching, she travels the world and enjoys visiting historic sites.

Comment [Office1]: Notice that the synopsis does not make any inferences about Kristina's life not explicitly stated in the document.

2. Analysis

Kristina's biographic comic book provides insight into the immigrant experience of the late twentieth century, the value placed on education and hard work in the United States, and the mobility of people in today's society.

Comment [Office2]: The thesis lists three critical issues that the analysis will address using evidence from the primary source.

A. Immigrant Experience

Based on the image of the tanks in front of St. Basil's Cathedral, picture of the snow-covered Red Square, and the red color scheme of some of the more comical representation of Kristina's homeland, it would be reasonable to argue that Kristina was born in the Soviet Union, presumably in Moscow. As Soviet citizens, her family faced the perils of long bread lines, indicative of poor methods of food distribution in the Soviet Union. Kristina's sepia childhood photo also suggests that consumer technology in the Soviet Union had fallen behind Western progress. Moreover, based on the fact that Kristina's parents were not allowed to take the majority of their belongings out of the Society Union, we can deduce that Soviet society was restrictive and isolationist. Despite the rather insular existence of Soviet citizens, however, knowledge of the opportunities afforded to people in the United States seems to have been well known. Even though Kristina's parents grew up in the Soviet Union where they were likely limited access to Western ideas, they still dreamed of a better life and believed that it could be achieved in the United States.

When Kristina's family finally decided to leave the Soviet Union, a committee of Soviet officials agreed to allow them to emigrate as long as they left most of their possessions in the Soviet Union. Kristina's parents were not deterred by this setback. Their belief that the United States is a place of great opportunity encouraged them to take the risk. When they arrived in the United States, they realized that they will need to be recertified to continue their old careers or work labor jobs. For seven years, Kristina's parents struggled to reestablish their careers. The perseverance of Kristina's parents and their later success suggests that the promise of a better life through education and hard work is a critical aspect of the immigrant experience. Unlike in the Soviet Union, where Kristina's parents felt deadlocked and unable to better their lives, in the

Comment [Office3]: Notice that each claim is supported with clear evidence from the primary source. The analysis does not jump to conclusions, but rather explains how claim follows from the evidence.

Comment [Office4]: The analysis states the significance of "bread lines" as a social and political problem.

Comment [Office5]: Notice that the claim about the immigrant experience follows the presentation of evidence from the text. The reader therefore knows how the author of this analysis arrived at the conclusion.

United States they felt that they could achieve their dreams and be rewarded for their hard work.

This demonstrates that the “American Dream” was still alive in immigrant communities of the late 1980s and early 1990s. Moreover, the diversity of people that Kristina and her parents encountered in the United States suggests that immigrants come to the United States driven by their belief in the “American Dream.”

Comment [Office6]: After making a claim about the Kristina’s family based on the primary source, the analysis makes a claim about society. The analysis is therefore inductive: it moves from to a medium and large claim.

Comment [Office7]: It would have been helpful to define the “American Dream.”

B. Hard Work & Education as the Keys to Success

As demonstrated by Kristina’s parents, in the United States hard work and education merits rewards. Kristina’s parents secured stable jobs in their chosen career path. In other words, they had a choice. As immigrants, they could have continued to work labor jobs and support their family, but they also had an opportunity to return to school and receive the necessary training to pursue their career goals.

Kristina had a similar experience. She was not deterred from following her passion. Rather, she was motivated to pursue her interests. She thus continued her education. The fact that she faced many academic hurdles and was frequently frustrated during her time in college and graduate school as demonstrated by the two comic strips, suggests that education in the United States is very demanding but also rewarding.

C. Mobility

Through education and perseverance, Kristina and her parents were all able to secure their dream jobs suggesting that the United States is not a restrictive order-based society, but rather a society that encourages movement. Anyone, even an immigrant can establish a secure and happy life.

Moreover, the fact that Kristina now travels widely and has been to places such as Jerusalem, Machu Picchu, and Athens suggests that despite the turbulence in the world today, tourism and exploration are possible. Modern transportation and communication have made the world accessible and people, like Kristina, can move freely and securely.

Comment [Office8]: Again, notice how the analysis moves from evidence, to a conclusion about Kristina, to a final claim about society.