

Macy Davis Kansas State IE (Done) - Impromptu

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SUMMARY KEYWORDS

complexities, graphic novels, players tribune, understand, championing, debbie dingell, strive, dualities, dingell, literary, account, ap, peter, understanding, humanity, overdoing, nra, illustrated, plural, erase

SPEAKERS

Macy Davis

 Macy Davis 00:00

Grammar is kind of the worst. And look, I'm an English major, I understand the idea that we need to make sure we can both best present our written word to others. However, the Associated Press exemplifies the complexities of grammar because they don't believe in the Oxford comma, which to me is a travesty. (Laughter)

 Macy Davis 00:21

But, the AP is also one of the first style books, which has included the plural "they" as an acceptable pronoun. The AP's accessibility shows that it is more than just a style book, it is a complex understanding of our human language. And this complexity is illustrated in today's quotation from Lawrence J. Peter, "To err is human. But when the eraser is gone before the pencil you are overdoing it." Peter is showing us that we can't just rely on being perfect because at some point, we're going to run out of the ability to correct the mistakes we make. And we can agree with Peter's sentiment and find the crux of it to me that humanity is full of dualities, nothing is straightforward. And we can see this complexity illustrated in two lines of analysis.

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Macy Davis 01:17

First by understanding why we strive to do our best, but second, by realizing that we must account for error within our complexities. First, in order to understand the duality of humanity and to realize why we have to look past the eraser, we must understand why we strive to do our best. And we can see this by looking at graphic novels and Molly Ostertag.

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Macy Davis 01:43

First, graphic novels are a type of literature, not to be confused with comic books, that are longer and develop stories in a graphic fashion. Graphic novels have exploded in the literary community in recent years because they're a way for reluctant readers or those who read below grade level to still have viable literary options. Now many in the literary community, especially teachers, initially brushed aside graphic novels as just comic books. However, graphic novels and the understanding of the role they play in literature helps us to understand why we must strive to do our best, because it helps not only ourselves, but those around us and gives everyone a chance to read.

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Macy Davis 02:31

Additionally, we can also see this by looking at Molly Ostertag. Molly Ostertag is a comic artist best known for her graphic novel, "The Witch Boy." Ostertag found her start in online web comics, but in striving to do her best published a full length graphic novel about a transgender kid. Ostertag's graphic novel provides accessibility and a mirror for kids who may not see themselves in literature. Both Ostertag and the graphic novel show us how we strive to do our best even in the complexities of literary genre and social acceptability. Thus helping us understand the dualities that humanity is full of. However, we also have to acknowledge that we must account for complexities. There are things that are going to happen to make us want to erase our mistakes. But we can also understand the need to account for those complexities by looking at Debbie Dingell and The Players Tribune.

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Macy Davis 03:33

First, Debbie Dingell is currently a Democratic Representative in the United States House of Representatives. She championed the Violence Against Women Act. However, Dingell's former husband also sat on the NRA's Executive Board. This almost seems counter intuitive to the act Dingell was championing which was heavily contested by the NRA for the closing of the boyfriend loophole. Instead of erasing her past and her husband's activities, Dingell was open about the fact that it was even more impactful to her as a survivor of domestic abuse whose father had been an abuser and owned a gun that the complexities were important to consider, but she found her, she found a way to account

for them and championing this act.

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Macy Davis 04:23

Additionally, we can understand how we must account for human complexities by looking at the Players Tribune. Now I am not a sports girl, but the Players Tribune publishes articles written by actual professional athletes. And the Players Tribune gives an insight into these athletes beyond just the meatheads and jocks, we may brush them off to be. Articles about mental health are common on the Players Tribune, helping readers understand that there are complexities even in the most inane of things such as professional sports. Both the Players Tribune and Debbie Dingell, help us understand why we might uncount for complexities when considering the duality of humanity. So when we returned to today's quotation from Laurence J. Peter, "To err is human but the eraser has gone before the pencil you're overdoing it." We can see we must understand humanity is full of dualities. First by looking at why we strive to do our best by second by understanding why we account for complexities. I still kind of hate the AP by working as a journalist, but I love their use of the plural j "they".