Please see all marginal comments for specific revision guidance. Also, there is a LOT of irrelevant info here, which I have stricken out using Word’s track changes function. Please make sure that you focus ONLY on doing your literary analysis and then arguing the specific reason for the song’s popularity. Please also remove and replace any irrelevant sources (as noted on the Annotated Bibliography).

*The River*:

The Outline and Annotated Bibliography

*The River:* Lyrics

You know a dream is like a river

Ever changin' as it flows

And a dreamer's just a vessel

That must follow where it goes

Trying to learn from what's behind you

And never knowing what's in store

Makes each day a constant battle

Just to stay between the shores

And I will sail my vessel

'Til the river runs dry

Like a bird upon the wind

These waters are my sky

I'll never reach my destination

If I never try

So I will sail my vessel

'Til the river runs dry

Too many times we stand aside

And let the waters slip away

'Til what we put off 'til tomorrow

It has now become today

So don't you sit upon the shoreline

And say you're satisfied

Choose to chance the rapids

And dare to dance that tide

And I will sail my vessel

'Til the river runs dry

Like a bird upon the wind

These waters are my sky

I'll never reach my destination

If I never try

So I will sail my vessel

'Til the river runs dry

There's bound to be rough waters

And I know I'll take some falls

With the good Lord as my captain

I can make it through them all

And I will sail my vessel

'Til the river runs dry

Like a bird upon the wind

These waters are my sky

I'll never reach my destination

If I never try

So I will sail my vessel

'Til the river runs dry

Lord, I will sail my vessel

'Til the river runs dry

(Brooks, Garth & Shaw, Victoria. LyricsFreak.com, 2016)

*The River*: Outline

* 1. Thesis
     1. Garth Brooks’ *The River* uses simile, metaphor, and alliteration to argue that we all have an opportunity to make our dreams come true, regardless of barriers or current cultural or political environments. This song’s message became an anthem for people to see that even when times are tough, you can persevere oruse different roads and methods to make your dreams come true, a message that is popular with listeners because…

1. Literary Techniques in *The River*
   1. Similes
      1. “A dream is like a river…”
      2. “…Like a bird upon the wind…”
         * 1. How They Add Meaning
   2. Metaphor
      1. Water
2. “Ever changin' as it flows…”
3. …These waters are my sky…”
   * 1. Boat
4. “…a dreamer's just a vessel…”
5. ” I will sail my vessel…”
   * + - 1. How They Both Add Meaning
   1. Assonance
      1. “Just to stay between the shores…”
      2. “Too many times we stand aside…”
      3. 'Til what we put off 'til tomorrow…”
      4. “So don't you sit upon the shoreline/And say you're satisfied”
      5. “Choose to chance the rapids/And dare to dance that tide…’
         * 1. How They Add Meaning
6. *The River’s* Popularity Today
   1. Why is it popular?
      1. Tradition and Values
         1. Politicians v. Gangsta Rap
            1. Jon Pareles’ Article
7. The Culture in 1992
   1. President Clinton very clearly articulates the culture of the early 90s in his 1992 campaign speech.
      1. Financial climate
      2. Middle Class Woes
   2. Racial Tensions
      1. Impact of How Whites See Blacks
         1. Local News creating modern racism
         2. There is hope
8. Conclusion
   1. Restate Thesis
   2. What to Take Away
      1. Personal Meaning
      2. Literary Meaning
      3. Cultural Meaning

The River:

An Analysis of the Song and the Writer:

Annotated Bibliography

Brooks, Garth, & Shaw, Victoria. “The River.” Rec. 15 June 1990. *Ropin’ the Wind.*

Capital Nashville, 1991. *LyricsFreak.com.* Web. 25 Feb 2016

This source provides the lyrics to the song, “The River,” written by Garth Brooks and Victoria Shaw. The site does have an extensive list of song titles. It is credible as it gives credit for the writers, and does leave space for the public to write in with their comments. It serves the purpose for this assignment, which is simply to have the lyrics.

Ifill, Gwen. “THE 1992 CAMPAIGN; Clinton's Standard Campaign Speech: A Call for Responsibility.” *The New York Times*, 26 Apr. 1992. Web. 25 Feb. 2016.

This source is a fascinating account of President Clinton’s campaign speech in 1992. It demonstrates the exact culture around the time of Brook’s song release, *The River*. Clinton exposes the wealthy while bringing into focus those who suffer the most: the middle class. Ifill does a good job of recounting past speeches and how they haven’t changed much. *The New York Times* is a reliable and valid source.

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Entman, Robert M. “Blacks in the News: Television, Modern Racism and Cultural Change.” *Journalism Quarterly*, Vol. 69, No. 2, Summer 1992, pp. 342-382. Web. 25 Feb. 2016.

This source covers a study done regarding television media and its role in creating in the white race’s minds who the black race is. It highlights the culture and how the country was feeling during the time that the song The River was written and recorded. In addition it helps the reader understand how the lyrics of the song relate to racial tension and inequities of the time.

Especially in the area of local news, which only seems to focus on blacks committing local crimes. This then leads the white population to see blacks as criminals and dangerous. This article not only discusses media versus racism but the methods of the study and its hypotheses, two of which are that blacks are seen in a negative light, and whites do not believe that blacks are discriminated against. *The Journalism Quarterly* is a recognized and valid source.

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Pareles, Jon. “POP CULTURE VIEW; Rapping and Politicking: Show Time on the Stump.” *The New York Times*, 11 Jun. 1995. Web. 25 Feb. 2016. <

This article is all about politics, and believe it or not, gangsta rap. Pareles tries to uncover how politicians can be so rightwing and yet love movies and music that are anything but. Then he parallels this hypocrisy with gangsta rap and how it exposes lies and blatantly tells the truth. Politicians fight against rappers, and the other way around, when what Pareles wishes is that both would concentrate on the poor and the homeless. This article is useful for this essay because it shows the culture in the early-to-mid 90s, showing how well Brooks’ song was received. It is also useful for the essay because it articulates these differences – life should be lived but has many different paths that mean different things to different people. The New York Times is a reliable, credible source.

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Browne, David. “RECORDINGS VIEW; The Kevin Costner Of Country Music.” *The New York Times*, 6 Oct. 1991. Web. 25 Feb. 2016.

Although this article seems to be irrelevant to this requirement, it does show not only the culture of music at the time but also shows a critical view of Brooks and his music, namely the CD on which *The River* is included. It makes for an interesting opposition to the main part of the essay. Browne considers the album hollow, without much merit, or inspiration. I will use this source as a contrary to how popular this particular song was and how it tapped into the American psyche. *The New York Times* is a reliable, credible source.