

Section 1 : Television Series Information

Group members

Title

- *And To Your Left*
- The title is reflective of the cliché phrase that almost every tour guide has ever said. *And To Your Left* is supposed to show the mundaneness and repetitive nature of being a tour guide but also is supposed to play into life's difficulties. All these characters including the main character have wanted more in life but have ended up at this job. The phrase "it came out of left field" is supposed to show how life throws curveballs at us and sometimes they keep us down for a while, but we need to learn to adjust and work forward like the characters in this show. *And To Your Left* is supposed to play into both the idea that life always has a different plan for us and the key phrase of tour guides, which the series is centered around.

Genre

- Comedy/Drama
- The show is meant to be comedic with hints of drama that come from interesting storylines and character arcs. The show's comedy comes from Liam's sarcastic nature the unique personalities of his coworkers. But the heart of the show comes from their personal stories and connections to one another. Although it's supposed to be funny it does bring an element of emotion.

Synopsis

- The show is centered around Liam. An average white college graduate who's plan of going to medical school is put off the rails when he gets rejected from every medical school he applied to. While living in his shitty apartment in Philly, He picked up a job as a tour guide as he figures out his life. This all the while he watches his former friends and classmates go on to live their dreams. Much like Liam, everyone he works with at his tour company are all people who wanted to be something more and do something more but all got stuck at the same job. There's Jen his manager who got halfway through college before she got pregnant and had to take a job doing tours in order to support her and her son. There's Jimmy, the wannabe hollywood filmmaker who went to los angeles and couldn't make it work so came back home to be a tour guide and figure out his next move. There's Nick the old bus driver who has hopped from job to job his whole life, who always wanted to play jazz for a living. Then there's Rebecca, the overachieving, optimistic college student who's supporting herself through school. Liam is very prideful and has lied to all his friends about his med school plans and his current job. Although Liam hates his job, Liam soon comes to care for those he works with while they all figure out their lives side by side.

Section 2 : Character Biography

Character Name:

- Liam O'Connor

Physical:

- Liam is a 22 year old white man from an Irish family. He comes to about 6 feet tall with light brown hair. He usually has a 5 o'clock shadow and is almost always unkempt. His usual work outfit consists of jeans that don't exactly fit right, a sweater, with his tour guide windbreaker on top. His casual out of work outfits are generally the same without the windbreaker. He doesn't try much when it comes to keeping himself maintained in that he has really just given up on it all. Clothes are usually dirty but can be cleaned up nice if he needs to be.

Personality:

- Liam has always coasted by. He's smart enough to get by without really trying or studying, which is what he did throughout his four years at college. He can be pretty entitled coming from a family of decent wealth, although his mother makes him get a job in order to give him a sense of work ethic. He can be abrasive and standoffish to those he doesn't know. He acts as though he doesn't care about anything when in reality he secretly does. Once comfortable with people he gets by in most conversations with witty sarcasm and well-timed humor at the expense of others. Some would say he is a smart ass. Although he tries to make it seem like he isn't, he is very much a mama's boy and would do anything for his mother if she asked, even if sometimes unwillingly. Liam tries to come off as uncaring, but when he connects with people he shows he cares through small actions so that he can't be accused of actually having a heart.

Life Experiences

- **Event 1:** The most crucial and important event that happened to Liam that acts as the maguffin of the series is Liam getting denied from all the medical schools he applied to, thus destroying his plan that he had set out for his future. Because Liam is very self-centered and entitled, he is shocked when he does not get in and believes he deserves a spot in medical school even though he never tried very hard in undergrad. Because of this event Liam becomes very lost and depressed and he watches all his classmates and friends transition into the next chapter of their lives while he's stuck not knowing what to do next. He's embarrassed and ashamed and doesn't tell his friends of his failure, keeping from them this very crucial part of his life where he could be using his friends the most.
- **Event 2 :** When Liam's father left his mother when he was 14 years old for another woman that played a crucial part in why Liam wanted to be a doctor in the first place. Liam's father was a doctor and left his mother to start a family with another, younger woman. He doesn't have much contact with father other than an occasional phone call on his birthday or on holidays because his father is busy with the children he had with his second wife. Liam going to medical school and becoming a doctor was his internalized way of proving to his father that he was good enough, and was his way of trying to make him regret leaving.

- **Event 3:** Liam's college years were wasted on him as he went through the motions and got by doing the bare minimum of what it took to pass. Liam partook in no extracurriculars, he never met with professors, and never cracked open a text book to study once in his four years. Liam went into school with no real passion for medical school, or passion for anything so he regularly got drunk, smoked weed, and hung out with his friends because it was easier than trying to figure out what he actually wanted to do with his life.

Current Situation

- Liam has spent the summer dwelling in his own sadness of not getting into medical school and watching all of his friends transition into the next part of their lives. He lives in a shitty apartment in Philadelphia with 5 other roommates. After a summer of sitting around, playing video games, and getting drunk his mother tells him he has to get a job and not mope around. That's when he finds what he thinks will be an easy job, a tour guide of Philadelphia. His plan is to work as the tour guide until he can figure out his next move, or get into medical school. He tries very hard to not be friends with his co workers and keep them at a distance but overtime he becomes to really care for them.

Section 3 : Character Inspiration

Character Inspiration 1

- Jeff Winger (Community)
- I drew inspiration for the character of Liam from Jeff Winger from *Community*. They both are similar in the sense that they both had a fall from grace of sorts. Jeff Winger was a very successful lawyer until it was found out that he never went to law school and got his actual law degree, so he is disbarred and had to return to school. This is very similar to how Liam does not get into medical school and is lost. He is a very classically white egotistical man in addition to being vain. Winger believes he deserves everything even with little to no hard work or effort. This is reflective of how Liam was in undergrad, thinking he deserves to go to medical school, although he barely worked for it. They are both extremely self serving and are only trying to go through the motions to get what they want. They also both have a sense of superiority over their classmates/coworkers.

Character Inspiration 2

- Jonah Simms (Superstore)
- There was a lot of inspiration for Liam that came from the character of Jonah in *Superstore*. To start, they both believe they are a lot better than the minimum wage, no skills, no degree required jobs they are currently working at. Jonah in *Superstore* likes to feel that he above everyone he works with because he believes he is smarter, and comes across as a know it all a lot of the time. This is very similar to Liam, who graduated from college and had dreams of going to medical school. Both of these characters believe they are too smart for their current job, and think of the job as a holding place before something better comes along. They also both come wealthy families, which makes the urgency of having a job and supporting themselves less important because they always have money to fall back on, this in turn makes them not take their jobs as seriously as maybe someone else would. Another aspect that is pulled from Jonah is that as the days go by, Jonah cares more and more about his co workers, much like Jonah does over the course of the series. Overtime both characters learn they are not smarter or better than their co workers and starts thinking of them all as equals.

Character Inspiration 3

- Eleanor Shellstrop (The Good Place)
- Eleanor starts out the series as a very egotistical , self serving person who only does things that she knows will benefit her. This is much like Liam in the beginning of the series. Both of them are smart, but don't put in the effort to put their wits to good use. Eleanor overtime becomes a good person because of the people she is surrounded with and learns about ethics through her friend and teacher, Chidi. This is somewhat reflective of how Liam learns to become a better person. He learns overtime through interacting with his co workers that he is not the only person in the world with problems, and not the only one who had dreams that didn't work out. Throughout the series both Eleanor and Liam learn to be more compassionate with the people around them and to learn that being a good moral person is important.

Section 4 : Film Techniques and Explanations

Technique 1 : Screen Recordings (6 - 35 seconds)

- Although not a traditional technique and not one on the list I thought this was a really interesting way to get a lot of different things across. For one I wanted to use the text messages as a way to convey the distance he keeps between himself and those around him. In the opening text messages you can see the names of his co workers and the other main characters in the show. Each character comes up as “Rebecca (Work)” or “Nick (Bus Driver).” By not giving them full names and identifying them for who they really are he can maintain his superiority complex over them, and continue to believe he is better than them even though they are all working the same job. I also believe the text messages were a good way of getting a lot of information about the character in such a little time. From the text messages from his coworkers we learn he is frequently late and a slacker, we also learn that he didn’t get into medical school, we also learn that his occupation is tour bus driver. We also see through the text message from his friend Connor, that he has not told any of his friends about his failure to get into medical school.

Technique 2: Choice of Music (Whole Video)

- The choice of music was very deliberate juxtaposition. The song from Drake “Started From The Bottom” is about working hard to get to the top. The song talks about being at the bottom and moving to the top. This is a very clear contrast to Liam’s situation. Liam has not worked his way “to the top”, he is more accurately in his own words at the bottom. The song is also supposed to contrast the hard work the song talks about, which Liam’s bad work ethic and how he doesn’t try hard or put effort into anything he does, including his tour job.

Technique 3: Close Ups (38 - 49 seconds)

- We used close ups of Liam getting out of bed and ready for work because I wanted to emphasize the routine of his day. He does the same thing day in and day out since he got this job. He gets his jacket, and he sighs before starting another day at the job he hates. When doing the close up of his face sighing, I decided to keep it level with his eyes to represent the plateau that his life is currently in. His life couldn’t get much worse, and it doesn’t seem to be getting better anytime soon. With the close up shot of his face sighing we are supposed to feel the dread and boredom of his job. We as the audience are supposed to connect to that very relatable feeling of not wanting to leave the house and go to our jobs. Through the close up shot we are feeling the rut that Liam is stuck in.