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Instructor's Name

ENGL 1013

Date

Elvis Is Alive

August 17, 1977, was the date that one of the great debates of this century began. Since that date, true rock-and-roll fans have argued over whether Elvis Presley really died or whether his death was faked in order to give Elvis a much-needed rest and change of lifestyle. There are many events, messages, and even actual sightings of Elvis that support the fact that Elvis is alive. True Elvis fans, knowing how much Elvis also loved them, know that he couldn't leave them without some hope that he will return.

First of all, there are two events that prove Elvis is still alive. These events were immediately clear to all the fans that knew Elvis and knew how he lived his life, a life filled with style and glamour. The first event was how he supposedly died. A true legend, such as Elvis, would die with style. We remember Buddy Holly and the Big Bopper dying in a flaming airplane crash and James Dean's life ending in a spectacular motorcycle accident. These were tragic deaths that endeared these stars to their fans forever. The announcement of Elvis' death stated that he lay down on the bathroom floor, threw up, and died. True fans know that this is a tongue-in-cheek message from Elvis to let them know that his death was faked. The second event is the way his grave is marked. His gravesite is marked with a headstone message that cannot be missed; his name is intentionally misspelled as "Elvis Aron," instead of the correct spelling "Elvis Aaron." Since Elvis' own father, Vernon Presley, knew that the grave was empty, he could not bring himself to engrave his son's real name on the headstone.

The second way that Elvis fans know that he is alive is the messages that Elvis has left

for them. These messages come from Elvis' many records that are still being bought and played by his ardent fans. His very last album, recorded on the Columbia Record label, was entitled *The King Lives Forever*. The main song on that album is "Look Around, I'm Here." Columbia Record spokesman H.E. Lives refused to comment when asked about the fact that the date January 6, 1978, was stamped on the first one hundred albums sold as the date that the album was recorded and then changed to read January 6, 1977, on the rest of the albums released.

These messages are enough proof for most true fans, but the numerous actual sightings of Elvis should put an end to any doubt that still remains. *The Kangaroo Herald* has reported seeing Elvis down-under in Australia. They even have one actual interview with Elvis at a local McDonald's restaurant enjoying his favorite meal of cheeseburgers and peanut butter malts. The Channel 12 roving reporter in Honolulu has actual film of Elvis sunning and surfing on the beach where Elvis filmed his favorite movie, *Blue Hawaii*. On a recent visit to Graceland, two of Elvis' fans, Ima Beelever and Euel Beetoo, saw Elvis peeking through the closed curtains of the one bedroom that is kept closed and closely guarded against entry by any of the visitors. And there is the 1-900 phone number, which for a small charge to one's phone bill, will allow one to hear a recorded message from Elvis to his fans, reassuring them of his health and well being.

The messages to his fans, the actual sightings of Elvis looking healthy and happy, and the obviously faked method of his death are all the proof needed to dispute the myths of his death. Yes, Elvis is alive.