Matthew Foy writes stories that sometimes focus on fictional violent situations, loves heavy metal music and playing video games, and has worked professionally as a newspaper journalist and photographer. He currently resides in Bourbonnais, IL, with his wife and son, where he is completing the final revisions of his M.A. thesis. He also works there as a sports reporter for the Kankakee Daily-Journal and teaches speech and developmental writing courses at Kankakee Community College.

Mr. Foy’s thesis, “Negotiating the Violent Writer/School Shooter Stereotype: How Columbine, Virginia Tech, and Public Fear Make Writing Violence Dangerous for High School and College Students,” focuses on young people who write creative prose fiction that features violence and violent topics. His research specifically focuses on how and why these creative artists are stereotyped as potential school shooters and how this stereotyping then impacts their creative writing and their lives in general.

Mr. Foy’s research explores topics relevant to the humanities and is based in a firm traditional theoretical and methodological foundation using qualitative interviews and rhetorical criticism as his research tools. As Mr. Foy states in his thesis prospectus: “This will allow for the most valuable insights into the writers’ experiences, perceptions, and if they choose to defy their stigmatization, or alter their behavior to avoid future conflict by self-censoring their writing.”

Mr. Foy specifically applies scapegoat analysis, inspired by Kenneth Burke, to analyze the transcripts of his interviews as texts. Again quoting from Mr. Foy’s thesis...
prospectus: “Using Burke’s scapegoat theory is the best way to better understand if and how systematic drama is existent within the language writers use to describe, and hence understand themselves, their experiences pertinent to my overarching research question: How have writers of who identify themselves as writers of violent material been impacted by the perceived negative stereotype that correlates writing violent material with the capacity to commit actual violence, including school shootings?”

Mr. Foy’s work examines some very significant cultural, social and political issues, and it demonstrates considerable depth in its approach to these topics.