

Music Presentations

When asked which medium of communication is most important to them, a resounding majority of high school students respond, "Music."

In light of this resounding value, I have decided that it is inarguably important to allow my students in our introductory media literacy course to share and discuss the medium that means the most to most of them.

So, every class (hopefully), the first 10-15 minutes will be devoted to a presentation involving music.

Presentation Guidelines:

At least 5 solid minutes of your stories, ideas and/or connections

--may be spread throughout the presentation

At least 5 minutes of music for classmates to share and consider

--may be spread throughout the presentation

Handout or overhead recommended, required if lyrics are important

15 minute maximum

2 Basic Approaches:

Share personal stories or ideas that show how/why certain music is part of your life. (*Start with you, connect the music*)

or

Highlight the hooks you feel in certain music and articulate how/why you react so that others may get into it the way you do.

(*Start with the music, connect to you and try to bring others in*)

During presentations, the rest of the class will listen attentively and write reactions in journals while music is played. Reactions may later be used for more developed papers.

Music Presentations will be factored into your quarter grades as Project Grades.

You will be assigned dates for presentation at least two weeks in advance.

Every student will not present every quarter.

Mr. Robb will offer sample presentations modeling different styles; ideas are on the back.

Presentation Ideas:

--**Music as Basis/Component of Relationships:** share stories of how certain songs/bands/styles played roles in relationships between friends, family members, boyfriends/girlfriends, etc

--**Music that Made You:** share formative experiences involving music, share eye opening moments, show how influential songs/lyrics/music opened doors to you

--**Music that Changed the World:** share how a musician's work has affected the world, represented a culture, etc.

--**Music Scenes:** discuss how/why music means certain things to a certain social group or community of music supporters

--**Appreciating Musical/Lyrical genius/innovation:** share importance of an artist's musical or lyrical contributions, personally, artistically, historically, etc.

--**Can You Hear How I Hear?:** try to share your fervor for a certain artist or style, articulate your attraction to try to give classmates a way into your enjoyment

--**Share Some New Sounds:** share the importance of experimentation, stretching your personal tastes through listening broadly, share something new you are unsure of, and discuss why this listening interests you

--**Offer Connections, Go Old School:** share some of the less known influential recordings that have influenced more popular artists

--**Refute the Critics:** show classmates why certain music should not be dismissed, show how it deserves to be appreciated, take on criticisms with knowledge and passion

--**Soundtracked Stories:** tell how certain music/songs played a big role in one of the better stories from your life, tell the story, play the songs

--**Creative Soundtracks:** tell a true or made up story you have scripted to involve an accompanying musical soundtrack (avoid lyrics overlapping your tale)

--**Performance:** dance or lip sync to music or song; talk to class about the inspiration for your interpretation (this can be as serious or silly as you like)

--**Make up your own idea:** center your presentation on something else...run your idea by Mr. Robb before you present to assure credit