

Exploring Human Rights through Music

Details:

One compilation of at least 5 songs

Liner notes with at least one page per song explaining:

- 1) what the song is about
- 2) why you chose the song and how it responds or relates to the main question driving your compilation

Final presentation, 10 minutes (see other side for details)

Format:

Songs can be on a CD, a thumb drive, a YouTube mix, or heck, even a cassette tape

Liner notes should be at least one page per song. They can be typed (double-spaced, 12 pt font, with one-inch margins) like a regular paper or presented creatively in zine format like the liner notes for an actual CD (obviously the font will need to be smaller than 12 pt to accommodate all the information that should be in the notes).

Prompt:

Throughout this class we have listened to a variety of songs whose lyrics and tone relate to the topics we have been reading about for class. After playing each song I have explained why I chose the song to fit with a particular topic. One of the reasons for this exercise was to show you how the topics we discuss in class have been explored in a number of ways by a wide range of artists. It is important to see how these social justice issues inspire people to create works that speak to large audiences, not just in academic articles or novels, but in pop music and underground hip-hop.

The purpose of this final creative project is to reflect on the important ideas we have discussed in class, chose which one was most important to you, and find music that relates to that idea.

Instructions: There are four major steps to completing the written project.

- 1) **Decide which topic was the most important to you and why.**
- 2) **Develop a question about that topic that you want to answer in your compilation.** For example, some of the topics we have covered these two quarters are educational inequality, gender roles, embodiment, immigration and assimilation. We've asked ourselves a range of questions, such as: why are some students more prepared for college than others? Why are girls' clothes pink while boys' are blue? Why aren't we happy with our bodies? What does it mean to be "American?" Try to develop a question like this around your chosen topic.
- 3) **Pick the songs you want for your compilation and save them on whatever format you prefer.** Remember, the assignment is not to make me a mix of your favorite songs! The assignment is to find songs that relate to a specific course topic. Therefore, it's possible you might not personally like some of the songs in your mix, but they may be highly relevant to the course topic you're responding to.
- 4) **Make the liner notes.** This will be the most work, but it also offers the most opportunity for creative expression. For each song, you will need *at least one page* that explains a) what the song is about and b) how it responds to your question. See the formatting guidelines above for how to put together the notes.

Final Presentation Guidelines

On the last day of class and during our finals time slot, students will have the opportunity to present their musical projects. We will have a showcase so that other students can see the work you have done on your compilations and liner notes.

For the presentation:

Each student will have 10 minutes. During your presentation you should 1) tell us which topic you chose, 2) explain the question your compilation is responding to, and 3) play one song from your compilation and explain how that song responds to your question.

Tips for presenting:

--Write down notes for your presentation on note cards. This will help you remember the key points you want to make, in case you get nervous in front of class.

--Make sure you practice your presentation before the day you are supposed to present. This will help you gauge whether or not you can stay within the 10 minute time limit. Due to the number of students in class, I will have to cut people off who go over 10 minutes because there is not enough time to let everyone speak at length.

--Practicing before your presentation will also help alleviate any anxiety you might have from presenting in front of people.

--When you are presenting, remember to make eye contact with the audience. Try not to read from your notes.

--Be proud of your hard work :)