IRL In Real Life

MUSIC & CULTURE

Project Guide
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Introduction

The *Music & Culture IRL* Project provides a framework for you to explore deeply a social issue or global challenge that matters to you. This issue will also have relevance to music culture. In a naturally interdisciplinary course, this semester-long project reflects that orientation. Whatever topic you explore will directly connect to music culture in some way—either the industry, the artists and their platforms, the audience culture, or the music itself.

The final project will be a research paper in a format new to many of you, an online article. This is a semester-long project with assignments preparing you for the final completed project to be delivered at the end of the semester. The major components of the project are:

- **Critical research** with documentation of sources (Works Cited List). This project uses traditional research methodologies in preparation for writing an article to be published online.
- **The article** (1750 words) focused on an audience you have identified. As with any research paper, you will have introductory, body, and concluding paragraphs, all of which are to be evidence driven (1500 words). Additionally, you will close with a reflection, which is an expression of your personal ideas, convictions, and challenge for change (250 words).
- **A visual component** that expresses the essence of what you learned in a format of your choosing (for example, infographic, video PSA, comic strip or editorial, fashion design, collage, or something that you propose). This visual component will become part of your article as an image or embedded video.
- **The final approved project will be uploaded to an online magazine** created for this purpose, *Music & Culture IRL*. The site is Medium.com.

Assignments are given throughout the semester in order to make steady progress toward the final goal.
- Complete the Writing in Music Humanities assignment.
- Identify a human rights or global sustainability challenge with relevance to music culture.
- Research library databases and online for credible sources engaging the identified topic and music culture.
- Write a thesis statement - one clear sentence that reflects what will be proved in the paper.
- Submit a draft of a Works Cited list in MLA8 format. This will be included at the end of the article.
- Submit a proposal for the visual component.
- Submit drafts of the introduction, body paragraphs, conclusion with reflection, visual component. Writing culture includes an editing process. You are expected to revise drafts. All drafts will be submitted Times New Roman, 12-pt type, double-spaced, with a heading (Your name, The Course, Professor's Name, Date)
- Submit a complete article with citations, incorporating the visual component and works cited.
- Finals week: Post final project to *Medium.com* as instructed.

Specifications for the Article

- It is your creative work; and it will incorporate data, images, quotes, etc. from a variety of sources.
- Your research will be presented in at least 1500 words – claim, evidence, and reasoning. It is a research paper – but the tone will be more conversational. The 1500-word count does not include the reflection and works cited.
- Your article will incorporate a visual component of your choice that you create to be embedded in the article.
- The article will feature at least one video source.
- In-text citations will be referenced at the end of your article. The beauty of an article is that you can link to webpages that you are referencing, and you can add video and images. Linking content is one of the most powerful forms of citation.
- List all sources used for images, music, archival video, etc. in the works cited. The MLA8-formatted sources will appear after your concluding paragraph, for example:
    > Sethi, Ramit. "How to Write a Winning Resume, With Ramit Sethi." YouTube, uploaded by I Will Teach You to Be Rich, 23 June 2015, www.youtube.com/watch?v=_0fjkKCsM1w. Accessed 28 June 2016.
- Identify the audience you are addressing, and speak to them in a style and tone that is most likely to keep them reading.

Tips for Writing an Online Article

- Start with an attention-grabbing title.
- Use shorter sentences! Be conversational, **but don't abandon correct grammar, punctuation, and spelling.** People may be reading on a mobile phone – small screen, short sentences and paragraphs.
- Your audience will determine how formal your language is. Writing to recording executives may demand a different writing style than writing to your peers. But, don't abandon correct grammar, punctuation, and spelling.
- Think in shorter paragraphs. Again, people read on cell phones.
- Another approach is to break up larger paragraphs with visual pop outs of text (quote yourself in a chunky font).
- Use images and video intermittently.

Sample Articles

- [Music, A Vehicle for Sustainability](#) by Malvika Paden (2018)
- [Music Can Change the World](#) by Dana Da Silva (2013)
- [Hip Hop: Today's Civil Rights Movement?](#) by Scott Simon (2003)
- [Why We Scientists Do Instagram](#) from the Lab Bench (2018)
- [Designing the Compassionate City](#) by Jenny Donovan (2018)
- [Civil Rights Class Action Challenges Broken Criminal Justice System in Louisiana](#) by Rebecca Ramaswamy (2020)

Assignment 1: Writing in Music Humanities

This course approaches writing in a variety of ways. While the writing activities may be familiar, such as description, reflection, interpretation, analysis, reasoning, and creating, the language of the content may require a stretch for a different discipline. Writing assignments are intended to enhance learning of course materials and engage you in discipline-specific ways of thinking and writing:

- Using music language and symbols to describe, identify, and analyze musical qualities and style
  Examples – mixtapes/playlists; micro-presentations; discussions. If you have minimal or no music background, I STRONGLY encourage you to do the extra-credit "Elements of Music" assignments.
- Analyzing the lyrical or poetic content of music
  Example – assignments that focus on poetic meaning and flow
- Connecting the development of music with the social, economic, or political history of the time
  Example - interpreting how events influenced hip hop music/rap and vice versa
- Engaging the scope of a music humanities literature course through a multi-faceted project
  Example – the semester-long project that examines a hip-hop art form/artist in the real-world context of a social justice, human rights, or sustainable development challenge. Many of your thinking and writing skills are required to create the components of the project, including creating a structure, analysis and interpretation of data, citing sources, making a strong claim supported by evidence and reasoning, reflection, drafting and revising, etc.
- Designing a visual expression of your project content
  Example - infographic, editorial comic, fashion design, or short video (other suggestions welcome), which require structuring, focusing, and representing your thinking in a different way. An artist statement will describe the symbolic thinking and intent of this aspect of the project.
- Synthesizing understanding of content and reflecting on connections to your experience and knowledge
  Examples – discussions, mini-reflections in content explorations

The Assignment
Review the rubric below and respond to these questions.
1. Looking at the rubric criteria, what do you believe are your strengths in writing right now?
2. Looking again at the rubric criteria, what would you challenge yourself to improve upon this semester?

> **NOTE TO EDUCATORS:** The rubric I use is part of Chandler Gilbert Community College's Writing-Certified Class Program, and not my content to share. Students are looking at these types of criteria: structure, voice, clarity, focus, detail, quality of reasoning, attention to audience, etc.
>
> Students are invited to respond to a reflective question on this same subject as part of my closing survey at the end of the semester.

Assignment 2: Topic Selection

Before our Library Research Week, you will need to make a decision about a topic. After reading this introductory content, please respond to the survey questions.

Your research will focus on how music culture (hip hop or rock) reflects or confronts a problem in our world. There must be a connection to music culture. Your topic may change or focus more as you spend time researching. That is perfectly normal. You need, however, a starting place. This topic may engage a human need, human rights, social justice, or a sustainability problem. **Your issue…political? social? cultural? Examples:**

- Commodification
- Discrimination
- Child trafficking
- Cultural appropriation
- Gender: women, white men, LGBTQ+
- Education
- Environmental or climate issues

- Refuge, a safe place to live
- The impact of hip hop on interactive media, such as video games
- Mental health
- Hunger, access to food
- Stereotyping and exploitation

Watch these short videos on "human rights" and "sustainable development" to help you think about the conditions that create dignity for all people. For instance, is there a human issue that you are passionate about, that is connected to the world of hip hop, with hip hop or hip hop artists as the mirror or the weapon?

- **"Human rights in 2 minutes"**
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ew993Wdc0zo
- **"A brief history of human rights" (9 minutes)**
  https://www.humanrights.com/what-are-human-rights/brief-history/
- **Additional resources for human rights are easily found here:**
  https://medium.com/music-culture-irl/the-universal-declaration-of-human-rights-d3086290aa79

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

- **"UN Sustainable Development Goals" (1.5 minutes)** *Do you know all 17 SDGs?*
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0XTBYMfZyrM
- **United Nations Sustainable Development 2030 Targets**
  https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/
- **About the Sustainable Development Goals**
  https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/

The Assignment
1. What social, cultural, or sustainability issue is important to you?
2. In what way do you see a connection to how music, musicians and/or the music industry support or deny this issue? Or do you see music, musicians and the industry shaped by, impacting, or challenging it?
3. Do you have questions as to how your issue might connect to music culture? You may need to do some initial research on Google to settle on your topic. For instance, if you Google "hip hop and hunger," a number of links pop up that can start a journey to other sources. Don't be shy about pursuing something that you are passionate about! It makes a huge difference when you are getting ready to dive into a project.

Instructions: Respond to these questions in complete sentences with attention to punctuation and spelling. Use a minimum of 100 words. Your response should reflect attention to the human rights and sustainable development goals content provided above for full points.

> **NOTE TO EDUCATORS:** The images above are provided by the United Nations as a means to communicate their campaign.

Assignment 3: Library Research Week

NOTE TO EDUCATORS: This important aspect of project development is supported by the Chandler Gilbert Community College libraries and faculty. The library faculty work with classroom faculty to develop instruction that is specific to each research project, including among other topics:
- Search tips
- Source authority
- Citations
- How to forward articles to email
- Databases and filters

They provide worksheets with reflections to engage student thinking in very specific ways around the research process. Assignments 3 and 4 are the only assignments in my course during Library Research Week.

Assignment 4: Thesis & Works Cited List

You have selected a social issue or global challenge relevant to popular music and culture. This assignment allows you to express what you intend to prove through your research.

The Assignment Part 1: Thesis
What claim are you making about an issue relevant to music culture? Another way of saying it is, what do you intend to prove about your selected issue/topic? This is your thesis.

I want **one clear sentence** that:
- Intersects music culture and your social issue/global challenge
- States what you will prove in your article

Sample thesis statement: "For incarcerated youth, access to music with personal meaning is essential for stress reduction, focus, and reflection." My social challenge is stress reduction for incarcerated youth. Music culture is identified with music that is personally meaningful to them. This topic is specific and can provide a compelling focus for my article.

The Assignment Part 2: Works Cited List
Submit at least six (6) sources as a Works Cited list in MLA8 format.
- Four (4) authoritative sources from the library databases
- One (1) video relevant to the issue you are researching
- One (1) or more additional sources – search Google keeping the information about "authoritative" sources in mind
- For the Works Cited list, take advantage of our Writing Center resources. View the video and download the resources available to you.

After watching the video "MLA Style Works Cited"
(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mlrOBha3LSE&feature=emb_logo) you will be able to:

- Properly format a Works Cited page in MLA style.
- Format a Works Cited entry based on the type of source you are using.
- Use a model to check your work.

Resources
- Works Cited Checklist (PDF) https://www.cgc.edu/sites/default/files/inline/file/3360-works-cited-checklist.pdf
- Works Cited Handout (PDF) https://www.cgc.edu/sites/default/files/inline/file/3361-works-cited-handout.pdf
- Works Cited Sample (PDF) https://www.cgc.edu/sites/default/files/inline/file/3362-works-cited-sample.pdf

Plagiarism

Please review! Know what it is so that you DON'T DO IT!

At the beginning of your academic career, it is important to learn about plagiarism. What is it? What are the consequences of it? How do you avoid it?

This 12-minute video tutorial from the Glendale Community College Library provides you with essential information responding to all of these questions.
"Lucy the Librarian vs. Plagiarism" http://lib.gccaz.edu/faculty/tutorials/Plagiarism/

You are responsible for the information in your student handbook on this topic. These are some of the potential consequences of plagiarism:
- Your work disqualified (F)
- Removal from a course
- Removal from college
- Loss of scholarships

Understand plagiarism so that you can avoid it!
Refresh yourself on "Academic Integrity" under "Institutional Policies" in our course syllabus.

Assignment 5: Proposal for Project Visual Component

Your project has two primary components - one written, one visual. First, you should understand the project's overall requirements, including the written component.

Qualities of the Visual Component – Applies to any Visual Form
The visual component you choose to create will tell part of the story you are building through your research. Whatever visual form you select must meet certain criteria:
- Be your creative work. although it will likely incorporate data, images, quotes, etc. from a variety of sources.
- Present the most essential information or concepts from your research graphically or symbolically.
- Include a separate 250-word description of the message, symbolism, and research process. This is an artist's statement.
- List all sources used for images, music, archival video, etc. in the as a caption.

Types of Visual Components – Select One
More information and examples may be provided in the Project Resource module with a list of sources for music, images, and archival video. You may propose another idea as long as it addresses the needs of the project.

- **Video PSA: 1 minute**
- **Infographic**
- **Comic strip or editorial comic**
- **Fashion design**
- **Collage: Community, Challenge, Change**

🌐 Video PSA Guidelines and Resources
See the Capstone module for a list of sources for music, images, and archival footage for your video. Additional tools are provided for the process as well.
- The length of the public service announcement (PSA) portion of the video should not exceed 45 seconds. **Total length**: title screen (~5-sec.) + **Your story (30-sec. PSA**) + end credits (5-15 sec.) = **Up to 60 secs.**
- A 5-second full-screen "title screen" includes the following information: Title of video, Producer
- Video is to be submitted in English, or include English subtitles.
- The video will include a variety of elements beyond talking into the camera, such as images, slides, archival footage, music, etc.
- All information presented in the video must be cited in the final screens of the video and in the Works Cited List, giving credit to any original source. Plagiarism of any kind is not permitted.
- No copyrighted materials (music, images, video clips) may be used without proper permissions and licenses as required by the owner.
- Videos will be upload to YouTube, then the link embedded in the article.

Steps to Create a Video

1. Refine the message based upon concepts and data from your article and critical sources.
2. Set up the production schedule and put it on a timeline – essential! Make certain you know how long each step of video production will be.
3. Tell the story, and actually script your narrative – remember who your audience is.
4. Storyboard the scenes, whether you are presenting through captured video or slide deck and other materials. Identify the most effective order of presentation. Hint: It may not be the order of the story.
5. Capture and/or assemble the video.
6. Edit the video, including all of the required sections. If you would like some training for Adobe Premiere Pro, click this link: Editing with Adobe Premiere Pro.
7. Submit a draft for review.
8. Upload the link to a YouTube Channel to become part of your article.
9. Write your 250-word description of the intended message, symbolism, and research process. Some description may need to be included in your article.

Human Rights Education Edition

Sample video, Winner of Human Rights Video Project 2019, created by CGCC students Brandon Chipps, Sarah Lamay, Max Galusha, and David Coto

🌐 Infographic Guidelines and Resources

If you enjoy working with concepts and data, an infographic is a great tool for expressing your ideas visually. Research shows that most of us are more likely to remember a visual than text.

- Focus on the single message that you set out to prove through your research.
- The infographic can include images, phrases of text, timelines, graphs, data, maps, and symbols in relationship to each other to highlight important points from your research around that essential message.
- All information presented in the infographic must be cited in the Works Cited List, giving credit to any original source. Plagiarism of any kind is not permitted.
- No copyrighted materials may be used without proper permissions and licenses as required by the owner.
- The final image will be embedded in your article.

Steps to Creating Your Infographic

1. Refine the message down to one point from your research and back it up with data.
2. Remember your audience. Just like your article, the infographic needs to speak to them.

3. Tell the story with your infographic. You may start with a storyboard, sketching each section of the infographic and making connections through color, font, symbols, and images. Consider descriptive text.
4. Select a tool and create. (It's easier with a template!)
5. Submit a draft for review as an image file.
6. Save your final as a jpg or png and include in your article.
7. Write your 250-word description of the intended audience, message, symbolism, and research process. Some description may need to be included in your article.

Online Tools – with many free options.
- Check out this article: Best Infographic Makers In 2020. I have used Canva and Adobe Spark. Of course, you may start from scratch if you wish, but it's great to have the templates, symbols, and images that are available with an infographic tool.
- How to Create Infographics in Under an Hour [15 Free Infographic Templates] These templates use PowerPoint for refining your project.
  o Seven Essential Rules to Create Infographics from Venngage. **This site does not have a free option, and you will not be able to download anything you create** there, but it's a great place to look for ideas. See 50+ Infographic Ideas, Examples & Templates for 2020

Infographic created by Joshua Barlow Fall 2020 using Adobe Spark

🌐 Comic Strip or Editorial Comic Guidelines and Resources

I do not recall that I've ever written a comic strip, therefore, I am referring you to experts for resources. These are the guidelines.

- Focus on the single message that you set out to prove through your research.
- You are still telling a story in a way that will grab your audience – in only 3 or 4 frames.
- If you use any data, provide the source in your Works Cited List.
- The final image will be embedded in your article.

Steps to Creating Your Comic

1. Identify the message that you want to use as your point of focus for the comic strip or editorial.
2. Remember your audience. Just like your article, the comic needs to speak to them in some way, either as an advocacy statement or a challenge depending on your message
3. Identify your character(s) and how you want to represent them visually.
4. Sketch out your ideas, then tell your story.
5. Think about how many frames you need (3 or 4) for a comic strip to be added to a article. The comic editorial will be one frame with pithy comments from your character(s).
6. Select a tool or draw on paper – create!
7. Submit a draft for review as an image file.
8. Save your final as a jpg or png and include in your article.
9. Write your 250-word description of the intended audience, message, symbolism, and research process. Some description may need to be included in your article.

Online Tools and Resources

- [How to Create a Comic Strip in 6 Steps](#) This site is packed with ideas, steps, and examples.
- [Pixton: FREE Comic, Storyboard & Graphic Novel Maker](#)
- [Create Your Own Amazing Comic Strips Online with Canva](#)
- [How to Write Comic Strips](#) video from CartoonSmart

🌐 Fashion Design Guidelines and Resources

Fashion is a central part of music culture, with clothing and accessories not only a reflection of personal style, but taking on community identity. Stereotypes and biases also become associated with a fashion as it is viewed outside of its community of origin. There is also a second approach – taking existing fashion and altering it to represent the challenge you are addressing. The guidelines for fashion:

- The fashion design will focus on an essential theme from your research.
- Your design will reflect the identity of the community in your research – or the audience you are addressing.
- As clearly as with any other visual component, the challenge with fashion is to take the data, symbolism, and imagery of your research, and represent it in a new form.
- A new fashion design will include a sketch and a final presentation. The sketch is a croquis, or fashion figure, drawn with the fashion design, which includes style, accessories, and attitude. The croquis is in the background, the fashion design pops out since it is the focus.

- The final presentation of a new fashion design may be the actual garment modeled in an image or a presentation drawing with title and any text detail noted.
- If an existing garment is being altered and placed in a new context to represent your core issue, then you will take a before and after image. Here is an example. The issue was the death or disappearance of 100s of girls and women in Juarez, Mexico. To draw attention to the ongoing, unresolved loss of so many lives, people transformed dresses into symbol-laden tributes to the missing.
- You might consider creating a logo as part of a new fashion design. For the same ASU West event, I created the logo below, which was printed on clothing.

I'm migration

a civil dialog begins with me

[ASU West Border Justice Event 2009](#)

Steps to Designing Your Fashion
1. Identify the message and attitude that you want to use as your point of focus.
2. Remember your audience. Just like your article, the fashion needs to speak to them in some way, either as an advocacy statement or a challenge depending on your message.
3. Depending on your process, you will either begin with sketches or you will pull together the materials that best represent your concept. You are representing the core idea of your research in a material form.
4. Sketch out your ideas with the style, accessories, symbolic detail, and attitude that will tell a story about your issue.
5. Submit your sketch for review as an image file.
6. Depending on your project, create or recreate your garment.
7. Save your final as a jpg or png and include in your article.
8. Write your 250-word description of the intended audience, message, symbolism, and research process. Some description may need to be included in your article.

Online Tools and Resources

- [Fashion and Identity](#) by Susan B. Kaiser (2000)
- [Unravel the Never-Ending Evolution of Music Fashion](#) by Sammy Lee (2019)
- [Music and Fashion](#) at the Smithsonian – Great examples!
- [Music and Fashion Intertwined Throughout the Ages](#) by Riley Paul Reese (2016)
- [How Music has Influenced Fashion Styles](#) by Cherish Marasigan (2020)
- [The Best 8 Free and Open Source Fashion Design Software](#)

🌐 Collage Guidelines and Resources

The act of creating a collage can highlight visual elements and ideas that represent our research, conclusions, and reflections on a topic. My colleague and I created this type of collage for an exhibition *Expressing Human Rights: All People Free & Equal* as a reflection on my research into the juvenile justice system and work with youth being tried for adult crimes. If you choose to do a collage, it will be considerably smaller – and filled with shorter statements of research over images.

Collage 6'x4'
Human Rights and the Arts in Detention
Melanie Ohm
& Deb Salac 2012
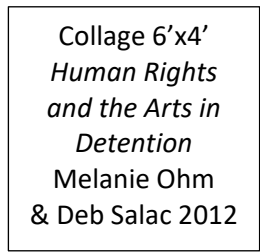
- This collage is a summation, key points of what you learned and came to understand through your research. An example on the next page has 3 identified areas that were explored around the topic of Leadership (by Camelback H.S. students in a leadership workshop). Your collage will focus on Community, the Challenge or Issue, and Change with the topic being the human rights or sustainability goal you identified, such as "discrimination":
  - The Community – who are the people impacted the issue you selected; who are the people advocating for the community impacted?

- o The Challenge/Issue – what is the core issue you researched? What are the key research points?
- o Change – what is the change being advocated by others? and by you?
- Since the collage is a summation of your research, your message will draw on key words/phrases, images, and symbolism as a visual representation of your article content to speak to your audience.
- The size of the collage should be no larger than 20" x 30" and no smaller than 20" x 20", using overlapping text and images with the cues "Community, Challenge, Change" and your Topic word or phrase incorporated.
- An image of the collage will be embedded in your article post.

Steps to Creating Your Collage

1. Identify the human right or sustainability goal and identify key phrases from your research.
2. You will need: scissors, glue, a 20x30" foam board (or even part of a box if it's fully covered with paint or paper), the ability to print images from the computer, magazines, photos, other objects you might like to incorporate. It can have 3D texture.
3. Layout the title and sections. Use images from magazines and the internet to tell the story. Think about a variety of fonts, color, materials, and symbols. Tell the story by gluing on the largest images first, then layering on increasingly smaller images and chunks of text.
4. Submit a draft for review as an image file.
5. Save your final as a jpg or png and include in your article.
6. Write your 250-word description of the intended message, symbolism, and research process. Some description may need to be included in your article.

Online Resources

- 7 Things to Consider When Creating a Collage by Sorcha O'Higgins (2019)
- Make a Collage – 10 Practical Tips by Nat Girsberger (2018) – If you want to get artsy
- Collage Techniques from Cornell – Again, artsy
- 6 Paper Collage Techniques to Try by Sara Barnes
- Collage Techniques video with Rosemary Lucket - How to glue!
- Collage Techniques and Basics for Beginners video (2020) Practical design tips

The Assignment

The visual component you choose to create will tell part of the story you are building through your research. Whatever visual form you select must meet certain criteria. Please understand those criteria before proceeding to the questions below.

1. Who is your audience? Be specific. Add as much clarifying detail as needed to define your audience.

   The goal of the research is to advocate for a human rights or global sustainability issue relevant to music culture, one that you strongly believe in. A few questions might help you identify the audience for your project.
   - Who will most benefit from your telling of the issue? Those who think like you, the undecided, or those who have a different take on the issue?
   - Does a particular audience immediately come to mind from a conversation you've had? Think generation, gender, or worldview for instance.
   - What do you want to see happen? Could your audience be the producers? Artists? Agents?

2. What specific changes would you hope to effect through your message? Provide 3 potential outcomes based on what you have discovered so far in your research.

   You've just begun your research, and clarifying this question can help you:
   - Be more precise in your research focus
   - See where your own biases are, and how they might affect your research
   - Keep you from wandering off the path into the weeds (off topic and dealing with information that doesn't contribute to your story)

3. Which visual component is the best fit for you and your research project?

4. After reading the guidelines for your selected visual component, what resources do you need that you don't currently have?

5. Ask three questions about the article and your visual component. These can be:
   - Requests for clarification
   - Concerns
   - About materials, supplies, software, etc.
   - Ideas for a different visual form
   - Whatever is on your mind

NOTE TO EDUCATORS: Our Learning Management System is Canvas, and I use the quizzes for many of these assignments.

Music & Culture IRL Article—A Thematic Approach

This writing plan is based on the idea that your research will uncover themes related to your topic and evidence. For example, if I am trying to prove the importance of music for rehabilitating incarcerated youth, my evidence may reveal themes, like music for stress-reduction, learning, and socialization. I would draw upon my different sources to address each one of these themes, including relevant images and videos that support the data.

Intro Paragraph	Quote, Data, or Story	Historical context for topic	THESIS—one sentence music & social/global

Body Para. Evidence Theme 1	Specific Quote, Story, or Data from Source 1	Specific Quote, Story, or Data from Source 2	Specific Quote, Story, or Data from Source 4

Critical discussion of the meaning of the source information, and how it provides proof for my thesis.

Transition connecting this evidential theme to the next.

Body Para. Evidence Theme 2

Same process as Body Para. Theme 1

Insert relevant images/videos that support your themes.

Body Para. Evidence Theme 3

Same process as Body Para. Theme 1

Conclusion	Brief summary of evidence	Solutions suggested by sources	Powerful closing statement for evidence

Reflection	Your ideas, values, beliefs, and opinions	Issues not addressed by sources	Your resolve regarding the issue w/power close

Graphic by Melanie Ohm for Writing in Music Humanities

Assignment 6: Introduction Draft

Compose the first draft of the introduction paragraph to your research article. What I will look for in your Introduction:

- Context. Background on the subject that leads to information on your specific topic of interest.
- Purpose. Why is this topic important to investigate, to understand more about?
- Style. An expression of your personality as a writer, with attention to grammar, punctuation, and spelling, of course. Keep it conversational.
- Thesis. What are you proving?

Instructions

Given the length of the final paper, this portion will contain 250-300 words. This is approximately a page using Times New Roman 12 pt. and double spacing (which is the formatting requirement for your draft submissions).

As suggested by our Writing Center, work to include...

- Something to grab your audience's attention - a quote, an interesting fact, a relevant anecdote, background information, a simple but direct question...etc.
- Language designed to convince your audience that reading this article is worth their time.
- A point of reference for the reader with background information and clarifications of the topic. In other words, explain what drives the point your paper is making.
- A clear thesis statement that indicates the primary purpose of the paper.

Avoid...

- Starting by announcing the purpose of the article, as in "This paper will discuss..."
- Clichés, well-worn phrases
- Dictionary definitions
- Restating the paper's title
- Complicated questions or information that might confuse the reader

You are writing an article online in a blogging environment. You are writing person to person, conversational, with all the power of your research and your personality at work. Refresh yourself on the guidelines provided in the project resources module.

The Foundation for Critical Thinking provides a model for processing ideas and information: https://www.criticalthinking.org/ctmodel/logic-model1.htm. The questions may provide you with fresh ways of thinking about your writing.

Assignment 7: Body Paragraphs Draft

Read the instructions in full please - you are responsible for the content.
You will have accomplished these steps so far:

1. Identified sources.
2. Created a clear, one sentence thesis statement that addresses both the social or global issue and music culture.
3. Drafted a Works Cited list.
4. Identified an audience.
5. Chosen a specific visual approach to expressing your research.
6. Submitted a draft for your Introductory paragraph(s).

Now it is time to compose the bulk of your paper. Here is where your research comes to bear. In the body paragraphs, you are analyzing what the information you've uncovered says, interpreting/giving meaning to it in your own words (paraphrasing), and drawing conclusions specific to each piece of evidence. You will:

- **Define the issue in greater detail**. In your introduction, you will have provided some information. Expand on this in your first body paragraph:

  Your Thesis is at the Overlap

  - o Prepare the mind of the reader by creating context for your topic. Imagine a set of Venn diagrams. Your thesis is the overlap where important historical ideas and social movements inform your chosen issue that is being exacerbated or addressed by music culture.
  - o Prepare your chosen audience by addressing what you understand of their perceptions of how this issue is playing out in the world today.
- **Introduce your evidence using your best reasoning. Walk the reader through what you found and what it means.**
  - o Evidence regarding the social/global issue will probably come first – you might give the reader data that indicates the severity of the issue and why action is needed.
  - o Let additional evidence reflect the connections to music culture in subsequent paragraphs. Use first-person quotes and paraphrased research from credible sources. When you use videos and images as evidence, you must discuss what they mean for your argument.
  - o Take a stand on the issue and present solutions and predictions centered on your research. What is the research suggesting as a solution or solutions to the issue. Note that one of your concluding paragraphs is a reflection. There you will be able to express your personal opinions, beliefs, and urgencies around addressing the issue. In the body paragraphs, however, your focus is on the data and what it means for the issue and music culture.
  - o Structure the paragraphs so that the evidence in one paragraph leads intelligibly to the next. Transition sentences are a signal to your reader that a new idea is coming.
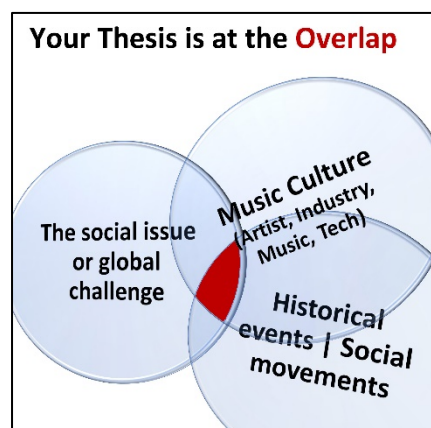
- **Keep checking your evidence against your thesis statement**. Does the evidence respond directly and clearly to that claim?
- You will likely have 5-6 body paragraphs, 1000 words minimum. When you are done, read your work out loud. This article is being posted in a blogging environment. Does it sound conversational? If not, shorten your sentences, and adjust your style. Conversational does not mean sloppy sentence structure, spelling, punctuation... or thinking.
- And one last thing—commas. Err on the side of generosity with commas. Know where to use them. A comma is not just a punctuation mark. It is a breath mark for the body and the mind. Commas and periods are pauses and stops that allow your reader to process chunks of information.

Assignment 8: Conclusion & Reflection Draft

In this assignment, you will accomplish two tasks:

2. Conclude your argument:
   - Briefly summarize the research - the big ideas drawn from your evidence.
   - State your conclusions based on what you know now, relating back to your thesis.
   - Transition to your next paragraph(s) with a powerful quote or question.
3. Reflect on what this means to you personally (250 words minimum). Communicate:
   - Your opinion (at last!), what you believe, value, feel....
   - Why this conversation matters to your audience
   - What actions can be taken to change the conditions: as individuals, as communities, as institutions (systemic-change)
   - End with an advocacy statement

With the reflection paragraph, your total paper is 1750. Intro + Body + Conclusion = 1500 + 250 (Reflection) = 1750

An advocate is a person who defends or supports a specific cause.

knelstrom/Pixabay

Assignment 9: Media Permissions

NOTE TO EDUCATORS: This is a formality because students are uploading their own work to a Medium.com account and submitting their stories to the *Music & Culture IRL Magazine.* Because student work – including the visual component – is being uploaded to a public space, I prefer to use the Maricopa Community College District form. In time of COVID, I complete the data and set up a quiz in Canvas with an image of the form. They have to say "YES" they agree as their signature. This is a simple process and covers the bases.

As part of this assignment, I also ask students to give me the email they intend to use on Medium.com. I then add them as writers on my magazine, making it a simple process for them to submit their story to the publication.

Sample form:

MARICOPA COMMUNITY COLLEGES | **PHOTO RELEASE FORM**

Date: _____ Location: _____

Department: _____ Photographer*: _____

I authorize the Maricopa Community Colleges (including its colleges and related entities) to photograph or video me and to use the photographs or videos for educational or promotional purposes in any type of media. The photographs or videos may not be used for profit without my express permission. I understand that I will not be paid or rewarded for providing this authorization.

1. _____
   Name (please print)   Signature

   _____
   Description of clothes* (color, type: t-shirt, dress shirt, skirt, etc.)

Assignment 10: Visual Component Draft

You created a Visual Component that fits the project guidelines described below and meets the requirements in the more detail guide in the project resources module.

Qualities of the Visual Component
The visual component you chose to create tells part of the story you built through your research. It meets the following criteria:
- It is your creative work, although likely incorporates data, images, quotes, etc. from a variety of sources.
- Presents the most essential information or concepts from your research graphically and/or symbolically.
- Includes a separate 250-word description of the intended message, symbolism, and research process. This is an artist's statement.

Instructions
1. Upload your image or video to the textbox. The image should be at least 300 dpi. Click on the picture icon in the menu bar
2. Provide a 250-word narrative in paragraph form that addresses the following questions:
   - What does the visual component express about your topic?
   - What did you intend to communicate?
   - How did you choose the information and symbolism to best represent your topic?
   - How does this visual appeal to your intended audience?

Assignment 11: Complete Article Review Submission

Please submit your complete article with visual component in preparation for uploading it to Medium.com. By now your research article has:
1. A catchy title
2. A strong thesis substantiated by evidence based on at least 5 sources
3. Links to online sources in your article! (Use hyperlink.)
4. Images, video and quotes to highlight your narrative, distributed at key points in your article (Use video links for this review.)
5. A list of works cited in MLA8 format
6. **Revisions to your complete article. If grammatical corrections from drafts aren't incorporated into the final article, I deduct points. I do not expect to re-read what I have asked you to correct.** If you need help, I am here, and the Writing Center is available to you.
7. A complete lack of plagiarism
8. Pride in your personal voice - what you have to say matters!

Let me know if you have any questions. I've done my best to think of all of the particulars, but I may have missed something.

Assignment 12: Upload your Story | Submit to the Magazine

This is your final, the culmination of a semester of research, thinking, and creating. In order to post your article, you will need to set up an account on www.medium.com. Once you have set up an account, I will add you as a writer for the *Music Culture IRL* magazine.

Create an account
- Open the website
- Click on the green "Get Started" button.
- Sign in with Google or with an email
- You do not need to sign up for a membership. It is free to post stories.

Access account options through your icon
- To set up a profile, click on the icon in the upper right and find settings.
- To publish your story, click on "new story."

Uploading your story
Uploading your article has a few very basic steps. It's easiest if you have your Word document with images and video links ready to go for easy copying and pasting.
- Access your account and click on "new story" (not "publication").
- Enter your title.
- If you want to enter text next, copy the first section of text from your Word document, and paste it into your story on medium.com.
- If you wish to add an image first, find the "+" sign at the left under your title. If you click on it, you will see a number of options that will allow you to: upload a photo, upload a video, embed
    - **To upload a photo**, click on the camera image. The pop up will direct you to upload a file from your computer. Once you click on the image file, it will place it in your article with a place for a caption. You may also add alternate text for folks who are sight impaired. Put a caption under the photo that represents the visual component of your project.
    - **To search for a free-to-use photo** that is already credited, click on the search button (magnifying glass) and enter a keyword. For example, I typed in "mental health" and 3,571 images popped up for review.
    - **To embed a video**, click on the play button (triangle) and you can add a link.
    - **To embed content from other sites, like Twitter**, click on this symbol < > and paste your link.
    - At the end of your article, before you enter your list of citations, **click on - - to add a set of dots, signifying the end of the content**.
- **If you want to hyperlink, bold, italicize, inset a quote**: highlight the text with your cursor. A formatting menu will pop up to assist you. You can "cite" online sources by hyperlinking to the source.
- You will enter your citations at the end of the article in alphabetical order. To enter the first bullet, use the asterisk symbol above the 8 on your keyboard, then paste the first citation.

When you hit "enter" after the citation, the next line will begin with a bullet. Link to articles that are accessible online.

- Publish your story before submitting it to *Music & Culture IRL.*

Let me know if you have any questions while you're in the middle of the process.

Submitting your story to *Music & Culture IRL*

1. I will approve your final submission through Canvas.
2. You will "sign" the media release in the project assignment module and indicate what email you intend to use on Medium.com.
3. Once steps 1 and 2 are complete, I will add you as a "writer" on the magazine and notify you that you can submit your story to the magazine.
4. Upload your story following the instructions above.
5. To submit your story to the magazine, follow the instructions found here on medium.com: https://help.medium.com/hc/en-us/articles/213904978-Add-a-draft-or-post-to-publication (Links to an external site.)
6. I will again review your submission before posting. In order to review your submission, view the instructions here: https://help.medium.com/hc/en-us/articles/115004848948-Review-submitted-draft-or-post (Links to an external site.)
7. Your article needs to be posted on medium.com by the due date. You may also choose to leave your story up. It will remain part of the magazine.
8. Copy the URL to your story and share with friends and family!

Additional Resources

⠿ **Writing Tips**

⠿   📎   **Clarity, Detail, Quality of Evidence.pdf**

⠿   📄   **Plagiarism Tutorial - Please review!**

⠿   📎   **Structuring Your Writing v2.pdf**

⠿   📎   **Sample Blog Writing Plan.jpg**

⠿   📄   **What is Evidence?**

⠿ **Storytelling Templates/Resources**

⠿   📎   **Telling a Story.pdf**

⠿   📎   **Freytag template.docx**

⠿   📎   **Storyboard Template.docx**

⠿   📎   **Access to Music, Video, Images.pdf**

> **NOTE TO EDUCATORS:** In addition to the student project guide, I provide writing tips. The storytelling resources are to support students in creating a video or comic strip.

Access to Music, Images, Video Footage

Caution! Do not use any music, video or image for which you do not have proof of license to use. That license may be Creative Commons, free with acknowledgment, or purchased, but students must be able to show that permissions for use have been granted. There are NO LAWS that protect you or the college from using any clips of music or video or any portion of an image without proper permissions. If you have a question, ask. These sources must be acknowledged in your credits.

That being said, the following list of sources is provided. Again, you will need to show that the music you are using is Creative Commons or a purchased license or free with acknowledgment, etc.

Images, Video Footage

This first website is geared for teachers, but if you scroll down, you will find many resources for images and some for audio as well: *Collect Multimedia that Fits your Lesson* https://create-oer.weebly.com/collecting-multimedia.html.

8 Great Sources of FREE Public Domain Footage for Your Documentary! https://nofilmschool.com/2015/10/need-public-domain-footage-your-documentary-here-are-5-great-sources

Best Websites to Download Public Domain Videos https://filmora.wondershare.com/video-editing-tips/best-websites-download-free-public-domain-footage.html

24+ Sites to Find Free Images You Would Actually Use for Your Marketing https://buffer.com/library/free-images/

Free Photos.cc https://freephotos.cc/en

Pexels https://www.pexels.com/royalty-free-images

Unsplash https://unsplash.com/

Pixabay https://pixabay.com/

Music, Beats

Free Music Archive http://freemusicarchive.org/
Styles available: Blues, Classical, Country, Electronic, Experimental, Folk, Hip-hop, Instrumental, International, Jazz, Novelty, Old-Time, Pop, Rock, Soul, R&B, Spoken
Click on song to see required attribution information.

Bensound https://www.bensound.com/royalty-free-music/2 Must credit Bensound.

Envato Audio Jungle https://elements.envato.com/audio also https://audiojungle.net/
Can cost as little as a $1.00 to grab a music track

Lickd Limited Music Licensing https://lickd.co/
First song may have a free license. Check.

The 20 Best Royalty Free Music Sites in 2019 from wyzowl
 https://www.wyzowl.com/best-royalty-free-music-sites/

Justin Brown, Primal Video https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1KBH4nUOrAE
Talks about what you need to think about and where you need to go to find royalty-free music.

Definitely pay or subscription sites:
Audio Blocks https://www.audioblocks.com/
Premium Beat https://www.premiumbeat.com/
Artlist https://artlist.io/

Ampermusic https://www.ampermusic.com/#score
Music produced using live-recorded instrument samples and a musician-trained Creative AI.

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