

Music as Identity

You will be making a 2 - 3 minute audio collage about the music you like and what you think it says about you. You can include favorite songs from your childhood and/or music that you have only recently started to enjoy.

This project contains several components:

- 1) Reflecting on music's role in your life.
- 2) Collecting the sounds that you want to use in your project.
- 3) Determining what those specific sounds mean to you or say about you.
- 4) Writing and recording a script that accompanies your music. This will provide the listener with an understanding of both the music and you.
- 5) Utilizing Audacity to assemble your final project.

Step One: Reflection

You will write a few paragraphs on the music that is important in your life. Make sure to talk about the music that helps shape your identity. You might also want to discuss the music that you secretly love, but other people don't know about.

You might want to start listing favorite artists, songs, or genres.

The important thing here is to focus on the music that relates to you and helps define you in some way. Why do you love it? What does that say about you? What do you hope it says about you?

Step Two: Go home and raid your music collection

You should take the thoughts and comments that you wrote in Step One and try to find the music that best illustrates those ideas. Remember, you will be making an *audio collage* - so, be thinking about the sounds and feelings of your final product.

Step Three: Put your music onto a Flash drive

This step will be different for everybody.

If most of your music is in an mp3 format already, then this is easy. Simply put the mp3s onto your Flash drive and then bring them to school. We will transfer them onto the computer during class.

If most of your music is on CD, then this will take more work. You need to rip your CDs onto a computer. When doing so, make sure that you are ripping them as mp3s and not as any other file format (iTunes uses a special proprietary file format). You can look up how to do this online. After you've ripped the CD, simply drop the file onto a Flash drive and bring it to school. We will transfer your files onto the computer during class.



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If you don't have a computer that can rip CDs, then I can rip the CDs for you. Simply bring me the CDs and write down for me which tracks you want from which CD.

If you don't have a specific song, then you can ask your friends and other people in the class. The idea here is to be proactive. Don't wait until the very last minute!

Step Four: Specific Reflection

You have your collection of 4 or 5 songs. Now you have to determine what those songs represent to you and/or what you hope they say about you. Write a couple of paragraphs about each song. Here are some suggestions to get you started:

- 1) When did you first hear this song?
- 2) What does this song represent to you?
- 3) Is there a specific part of the music that is most significant?
- 4) Is this a piece of music that you share with your friends or family?
- 5) Is this a "guilty pleasure" song? (A song that you don't want other people to know about).

Step Five: Script Writing and Audacity Assembly

You will have to be flexible during this step.

I would start by writing a rough sketch of what you want to say before you start playing around in Audacity.

Then, start editing snippets of sound for your collage. During this time, we will start recording your narration during class and you can start to assemble/edit everything.

Step Six: Create something awesome!

It is the goal of this project to have you think about music's role in your life in a different perspective. If you begin to understand how music helps shape your own identity, then you'll be better equipped to understand music's role in other people's lives and other cultures.

Remember, be honest and have fun!



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Your Music and Your Identity

Final Reflection

Now that you've finished your project, it is time to reflect on anything you may or may not have learned while working on it.

Please type up a reflection on the following five topics. Each answer should be at least a full paragraph.

- 1) Do you feel any differently about music's role in helping to shape your identity? Why or why not?
- 2) Do you see a connection between music and identity? Why or why not?
- 3) Do you believe that people choose the music they listen to? Why or why not?
- 4) Do you feel like the music you listen to accurately reflect the person you want to be? Why or why not?
- 5) Do you feel comfortable with using Audacity to create sound projects? Does it give you an appreciation (<- there's that word!) for how musicians and producers create the music you listen to?
- 6) **BONUS:** Share your file with somebody else (preferably a family member and not your BFF) and have them write a brief reflection about what they learned about you!

Feel free to include drawings, collages, song lyrics, photos or whatever else you want to answer these questions. If you want, you could even make your own audio reflection at home using Audacity!



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