

Project 3

Reading Music: The Rockumentary (200 points)

Draft 1 due for peer reviews on ANGEL 3/4

Final draft due by end of class 3/11

PURPOSE OF THE PROJECT

The primary purpose of this project is to allow you opportunity to apply the course concepts and readings by performing a reading and analysis of a specific song of your choice, analyzing its historical significance and function as a popular culture “text.”

YOUR TASK

While we have been exploring a variety of lenses or themes in this class such as race, class, gender, sexual orientation, technology, and others, for this project we will all focus specifically on the historical context of a particular song. This means that many of the issues will overlap each other within this context. Your research should include both popular and scholarly sources that will help you discover the historical event or issue that the song addresses and how that song influenced popular culture.

PRODUCTION OPTIONS

While you are certainly welcome to produce **a traditional academic essay**, in this course you have the freedom to experiment with composing in various media and genre. As with all projects in this course per your syllabus, projects should be the equivalent of a typed, double-spaced, four-page paper. Some options for project 3 include:

OPTION 1: THE COLLAGE — Magazines, newspapers, photographs, images from the Internet, and so forth offer endless possibilities for a collage that responds to the lens you choose for this project. Your collage may be done on poster board or may be done digitally using sites such as VuVox, Smilebox, or others. Along with your collage, submit a one-page cover letter explaining your choice of images and what you were hoping to say with them.

OPTION 2: THE PODCAST (OR SCREENCAST) — “a digital audio or video file that is episodic; downloadable; programme-driven, mainly with a host and/or theme; and convenient, usually via an automated feed with computer software” (center for journalism and communication research). Some options to consider for creating this type of project include Wikipedia and iTunes University. Additionally, you can download free software such as Jing if you choose to do a screencast.

OPTION 3: “OTHER” — You may, in consultation with me, choose another media for your project 3. If you would like to explore other options for responding to your question of choice, speak with me (email or in person) by the end of class, Tuesday, March 2nd.

GETTING STARTED

To begin your research, start with the Wikipedia entry on "[Rockumentary](#)" to make sure you understand the genre. You may also want to check the [Popular Culture: Music](#) entry at WSU's American Studies page. A good journal to begin with for scholarly sources includes the journal *Popular Music and Society* available through your WSU Griffin Library.

TURNING IN YOUR WORK AND GETTING CREDIT

We will conduct peer reviews on ANGEL (the class does not meet in person) on Thursday, March 4th. This means that you should make sure your project is posted to ANGEL or otherwise available for your peer review partner (you may have to make arrangements outside of class). You do not need to have the entire project drafted at this point, but should be far enough along to speak definitively about your thesis statement, purpose, rhetorical choices, and to articulate challenges. Directed peer reviews should be positive, constructive, and helpful. This activity will count as part of the 500 points for in-class writing and activities for the semester.

Final drafts of your project are due by the end of class on March 11th, meaning we will have additional time IN CLASS to finish on that day. Your work should be submitted to the appropriate ANGEL drop box, which may mean providing links to websites for digital collages or blogs, uploading (or emailing) MP3 files, or uploading PDF attachments that lock your formatting, fonts, and layout of other project types. Make sure that your attachments actually make it to ANGEL; it is VERY fussy and it is your responsibility to make sure I get your work.

Both drafts of your project are required in order to receive credit for this project, meaning you should make sure you are here for peer review, posting your first draft as well as submitting your final draft.