

Music as Identity

What are we doing?

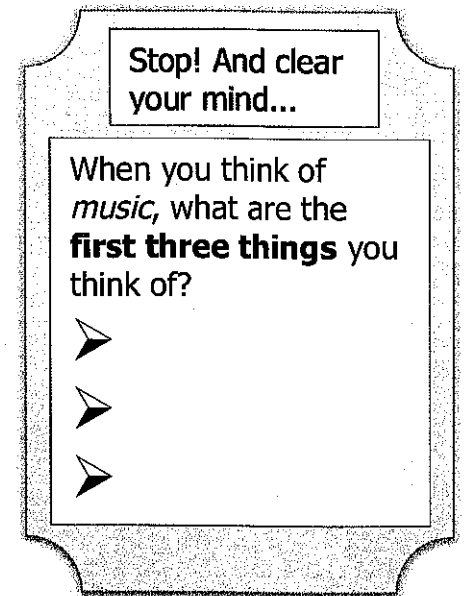
You will be making a 2 - 3 minute audio collage about the music you like and what you think it says about you. You can include favorite songs from your childhood and/or music that you have only recently started to enjoy.

How are we going to accomplish that??

A big project should be broken up into several steps:

- 1) *Reflecting* on the music 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 goes with your music. This should help the listener understand more about the music and you.
- 5) *Using* GarageBand to put together your final project.

OK, here are the details...



Step One: Reflection

You will write a few paragraphs in journal style on the music that is important in your life. Make sure to talk about the music that helps shape who you are. You might want to start by listing **favourite artists, songs, or styles**, or by writing about the music that you secretly love but other people don't know about. The important thing here is to focus on the music that you relate to 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.

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 a note about which tracks you want from which CD.

If you can't find 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: More Detailed Reflection

You have your collection of 4 or 5 songs. Now you have to determine what those songs mean to you and what they say about you. Write a short paragraph about each song. Here are some suggestions for things you may want to include:

- 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 you like the best?
- 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 GarageBand

You will have to be flexible during this step.

Using the paragraphs you wrote above, write a script with a few sentences about what you want to say about each song before you start playing around in GarageBand. Be sure to think of some things to say that make the transition between songs interesting. Keep it short. You'll be surprised at how quick 2-3 minutes goes by. 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!

The final product is the audio collage but you have to prove you did each step along the way!