

Music: The Soundtrack of Your Life

Since the start of rock 'n' roll in the 1950s, popular music has been a way for young people to express themselves.

Music not only gives us an outlet, it also has an influence on our minds. "Most human learning is incidental in nature and takes place outside of designated educational settings," say the authors of a recent study on the influence of music on youth.



MEANING WHAT? _____

Music matters to people, teens most especially, and some historians of pop culture would argue that teens "cannot be understood without a serious consideration of how it fits into their lives."



Where does music fit into your life? (LIST how, when and where you listen to music.)

Many scholars have long viewed television as the central media influence on adolescents, but today, teens actually devote more time and intensity to music. On average, American teens listen to music 4-5 hours a day (which in many cases is more time than you spend with your friends outside of school or watching television!)

Unlike visual media (TV, films, etc.), music is a powerful social force that also taps into an individual's personal identity, memories and mood. "Music is well-known to connect deeply with adolescents and to influence identity development, perhaps more than any other entertainment medium," said the study authors.

How does/has music influenced your identity, memories & mood?

Your Task:

Your ultimate task is to select 5-8 songs that highlight significant times that have shaped your life.

Your finished product can take whatever form you would like (small poster, hand-made book, or a Google slideshow – just make sure it's neat) but the more creative you are, the better.

For each song, include the name of the song, artist and year the song was released. Then write 3-4 sentences describing why you chose this song and why it reminds you of this special time period. Your description/connection to this song should include pictures for each song which could be personal photos, album art, video images, etc.



If you need somewhere to start:

- Think of the different stages of your life thusfar. What music do you associate with each of these stages?
 - Year or month you were born
 - Special moments with your family
 - Vacations / seasons or time of year
 - Relationships
 - Sports / Musicals / Extracurricular activities

- You could also start by visiting the following site:
<http://thisdayinmusic.com/birthdayno1> You may use the site to find out what the top song was on any important days of your life.

Your final product should be **INFORMATIVE** and **VISUALLY APPEALING**.