

Popular Music Project*

****You will need a two-pocket folder for this project!***

DUE DATE: TBA

This project about popular music is an opportunity for you to evaluate and explore your favorite artist or group. It can be an artist/group that is popular now or was popular many years ago. It can also be an artist/group that is (or was) popular in another country. **THE CHOICE IS YOURS!** This project will be worth 250 points toward your fourth nine weeks grade. Before you make your final decision about who you would like to research, think about the following:

- Is this person/group too new to have any good information about them on the internet?
- Does this person/group have only songs that are inappropriate for school?
- Will I be able to get a copy of a song by this person/group to play during my presentation?

Step One (75 points)

Use your project worksheet to research your artist or group and prepare a 5-10 minute oral presentation about their life and music. You may use magazines, the Internet, and books to find information. You must use a minimum of three sources for your presentation, and list them on your **bibliography page**. The bibliography page should be included in a project folder with your other written work for this project. If you print any web pages from the Internet, write a rough draft, or take notes, those items should also be put into your project folder. *It is not acceptable to read an article from a magazine or the Internet aloud as your presentation; the presentation must be in your own words. You must have a set of index cards or pieces of cut paper with the facts that you will be presenting on it. These notes should be hand-written.* You should memorize what you are going to present or read it from your notes. **YOU MAY NOT READ FROM YOUR PAPER**, nor will you be allowed to look at it during your presentation. Here are some ideas of the types of information you may want to include in your presentation. You are not limited to this list, nor do you have to find the answers to every question. You may not be able to find everything, and you just might find some different, more interesting information. This is merely a starting point for your research.

1. The name of the artist or group. Include the artist's given name if it is different from his or her professional name. If it is a group, list the names of the members of the group.
2. Where they were born and raised.
3. Interesting facts about their lives, families, and experiences in the music industry.
4. The style or genre of music that they play (rap, rock, hip-hop, gospel, country, etc.).
5. If it is a group, explain how they got together.
6. What kind of musical training did they have, if any?
7. What other groups do they perform with or other jobs do they have? (Such as a TV show, movie career, modeling career, jewelry or fashion line, etc.)
8. What is their favorite: Color? Music? Soda? Food? Etc.?
9. What is different about them compared to other groups/artists?
10. What did they do BEFORE they made it big?

Step Two (75 points)

Prepare a two-page *typed, double-spaced, 12-point Cambria OR Calibri font* biography based on the information that you gathered for your oral presentation. A biography is a true story about a person's life. Biographies are formatted just like reports or papers. **Every word in your biography/paper should be in 12-point font, including the title and your name.** Center your title on the first line and type your name on the second. There should be a single space between your title and your name, and a double space between your name and your paper. Do not add anything else. If you have followed directions correctly, the beginning of your paper should look like this:

Title of Popular Music Project
By Student's Name

Your paper will begin here and continue until you have reached two pages. Please do not try to triple space or change the size of your font, because I will be checking those things! You may have more than two pages, but you may not have less.

This paper must be typed. You will be given six days in the computer lab to complete it. If you do not have a computer or printer at home, you **MUST** get done with your paper in class! You should include the information from your oral report in the paper, but you should not read your paper as your oral presentation. Remember to use quotation marks when using text from a source in your writing. Any new sources you use for your paper should also be put on your bibliography page. **Your paper AND bibliography should be included in your project folder. THIS PAPER MUST BE IN YOUR OWN WORDS!**

Step Three (25 points)

During your oral presentation, we would like to hear a sample of your artist's music. You may play a song from a CD, an MP3 Player/iPod/Phone, or show a music video (DVD) that you provide yourself (no Promethean Board). *It may not contain curse words, have a sexual message, encourage drug or alcohol use, or encourage violence in any way. You will be required to do the project again about a different artist of Mrs. Cronin's choice if inappropriate messages are included.* **Include a typed copy of the lyrics of the song of your choice in your project folder.**

Step Four (75 points)

When giving your oral presentation, an interesting visual will help to keep your audience focused. **Create an interesting visual to keep our attention during your presentation.** You may use poster board (preferred), a science fair board, or a large box that has been opened up and covered with colorful paper. Be neat and creative. Your visual may include, but is not limited to:

1. The artist or group's name.
2. Your name!
3. Pictures of the artist or group. You can find them in magazines; on the Internet; photocopy them from books, a tape, or CD cover; or draw them yourself. Label all pictures with captions so that the viewer can understand what they are looking at.
4. Any other interesting facts, objects, or pictures related to the artist or group. This can include song lyrics, a list of their top hit songs or albums, pictures of album covers, or ANYTHING you feel is important. Don't forget to caption all your pictures and information!
5. If you have any clothing representing your group you may want to wear it for your presentation.
6. If appropriate, you may choose to dress up as your chosen artist for your presentation.
7. If the person you have chosen has been in any movies, it would be fun to see a clip from one of them.

Helpful Hints:

1. Do not wait until the last minute to complete this project! Every year there are people that come to me on the day the project is due with all kinds of excuses about why they weren't able to get it done. When the project is due, you must turn all of your materials in, including the visual. **NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE MADE.** If it is late, it is **HALF CREDIT.**
2. You may NOT work with a partner. This is an individual project.
3. Teen magazines (which you can find inexpensively at the grocery store) are good sources of pictures and information.
4. Do not choose an artist or group that only has songs that are inappropriate. There are plenty of other artists to choose from.

5. Do not choose an artist or group that is really new or has had only one big hit. It will be difficult to find enough information on them.
6. Take time preparing your visual. It is worth the same amount of points as your paper! Simply printing off a picture from the Internet and holding it up for the class is not sufficient. Holding up a copy of one of their CDs will not cut it either. The best visuals I have seen are the ones with lots of color, lots of pictures, and lots of information printed on them. You should be able to give your oral presentation just by looking at your poster, and people should be able to learn a lot about your artist without you having to explain anything!
7. Make sure you do ALL PARTS of this project! EVERYTHING is worth points!
8. You are required to provide your own audio recording, your poster board, and any other materials you need for your presentation. NOTHING will be provided to you other than a CD player, DVD player, and a jack with which to plug your IPOD/MP3 player into the sound system.
9. Follow the guidelines given to you in "How to Write a Biography". Your biography MUST have an introduction AND a conclusion, or points will be deducted.
10. Use proper punctuation and capitalization in your biography. Titles of songs should have quotation marks, and every word in the title should be capitalized (other than words like "a", "the", "of", etc., UNLESS that word is the first or last word in the title, in which it WOULD be capitalized.) Titles of albums, movies, TV shows, etc. should follow the same capitalization rules as song titles, but those titles should be UNDERLINED.

Checklist: (do this before you turn your materials in?)

___ Poster/Visual (**DO NOT GLUE YOUR TWO-PAGE PAPER TO YOUR POSTER!!!!**)

___ Audio Recording

___ Two-pocket folder

INSIDE YOUR FOLDER:

___ Two page paper

___ Project Research Worksheet

___ Bibliography (include every web site you used as a source, MINIMUM of three sources – **must be on its own page with "Bibliography" at the top!**)

___ All computer print-outs, hand-written research, and any rough drafts you may have

___ **Hand-written** index cards or notes for your presentation

___ Typed Song Lyrics (**if you put lyrics on your poster, you must print a second copy for your folder**)

The only things that don't have to be turned in on the due date are your note cards and your audio recording. (You may choose to turn them in if you wish, but many of you will be using an MP3 as your audio source, and probably don't want to turn that in!) Ideally, you should keep your note cards to practice with at home, but you may turn those in with the rest of your materials if you want.

Presentations will begin on the due date, and you should be prepared to present that day, which means you should have your note cards and your audio recording with you. Presentations will begin with volunteers, and then names will be drawn randomly. **If you do not get called to present the first day, you must be prepared to go EVERY DAY until we are done. In other words, have your note cards AND audio recording with you EVERY DAY until your presentation is over.**

How to Write a Biography

For the popular music project, you will be writing a biography. A biography is a true story about someone's life.

To write a biography, follow the steps below:

1. Choose a musician or band to write about.
2. If you have chosen an individual, find out as much as you can about the person. Read newspaper reports, encyclopedia articles and books. Use three or more sources to gather facts. Try to answer the following questions:
 - a. Where were they born and raised?
 - b. How did they get their start in music?
 - c. What kind of musical training did they have?
 - d. What groups have they performed with?
 - e. What other jobs have they had?
 - f. What style of music do they perform?
 - g. What is special about them?
 - h. What is their favorite color? Music? Soda? Food? Etc.?
 - i. What awards have they won?
 - j. What are their greatest hit songs?
 - k. Have they suffered any tragedies in their life?
 - l. What did they do before they made it big?
3. If you have chosen a band, find out who started the band. Find out as much as you can about each person. Read newspaper reports, encyclopedia articles and books. Use three or more sources to gather facts. Try to answer questions a-l in number two, AND answer the following:
 - a. How did the band get together?
 - b. What other people have been in the band?
4. Take notes as you research. Do this by hand or open a document in Microsoft word and type your notes. NEVER, EVER, EVER highlight an entire internet page and copy it into your document. THIS IS PLAGIARISM!
5. Write a title. The title could include the name of the person or band you're writing about.
6. Write an introduction that grabs the reader's attention and tells him or her who you're writing about and what information will be included in the biography.
7. Write at least one paragraph that includes information about the person's childhood. (For a band, write a little about each member.) When was he or she born? Where did he or she grow up? Who did he or she look up to?
8. Write at least one paragraph that includes information about the person or band's talents, awards, and accomplishments. What goals has this person or band achieved? Has this person or band ever faced a problem and overcome it? Has this person or band had any unique or interesting things happen to them?
9. Write a conclusion that includes your opinion about why it is important to learn about this person or band. What do you personally think of them? What can we learn from their accomplishments?
10. Once you have finished your paper, be sure to review your writing.

Popular Music Project Project Worksheet

Name(s): _____

Please fill out all of the following information. It should be placed in your folder with the rest of your materials for the project.

Name of artist/band _____

Names of original band members _____

What instrument(s) do they play _____

Names of replacement band members _____

Date(s) and place(s) of birth _____

Date(s) of death (if they are dead) _____

Musical training (for a band – include how they got together) _____

First job in music _____

Name of husband or wife and kids (if they are married and have kids) _____

Songs that they are known for performing or that they wrote _____

Greatest hit songs _____

What type of music they perform _____

Places they performed _____

Groups they were in _____

What other musicians or bands have influenced them _____

What other musicians or bands have THEY influenced _____

Other jobs they had before making it big _____

Nicknames and how they got them (if they have one) _____

Awards they have received (if any) _____

Favorites (color, food, soda, music, etc.) _____

Shows they were in (include TV, movies, operas, musicals, etc.) _____

Tragedies/Hardships they have endured _____

Other interesting information that you feel is important _____

Why did you choose this person? Why are they important to you? _____