

PAPER: ANALYZING POPULAR MUSIC

Lecture B: Dr. Jeff GAGNON

Due Date and Requirements:

The final draft packet is due Monday, **May 1**, to your TA at the beginning of lecture. The final draft of the paper must also be uploaded to Turnitin.com before 4:00 p.m. on that date. You must include all rough drafts with comments in this packet. Papers submitted after lecture (or to Turnitin after 4:00) will be considered late, and will have their grades lowered by 1/3 of a letter grade (e.g., B to B-).

The paper must be typed, double-spaced, with 1 inch margins, 11 or 12 point font, with an appropriate heading, title, and works cited page. It should be approximately 5 pages in length.

The Assignment:

First, select one (1) of the songs/videos from the list below (*lyrics and videos are available on TritonEd). Imagine you are writing to a reader that has never encountered this song/video before.

- Billy Joel, “Allentown” (1982) *lyrics and video
- Grandmaster Flash, “The Message” (1984) *lyrics and music video
- Queen Latifah, “Ladies First” (1989) *lyrics and music video
- Dead Prez, “Window to my Soul” (2012)
- Pearl Jam, (cover song) “Masters of War” (2004) *lyrics and live performance from the David Letterman Show

Then, use the analytical tools you have learned in DOC to develop a well-written, organized argument about the ideological formations of the song/video you have selected. A successful thesis will be centered on the following questions:

How does the song/video engage with one or more ideological formation(s) from the time period in which it was produced or performed? What evidence from the song (and performance if applicable) best supports your thesis?

Requirements for Your Final Draft – What will your readers expect?

- 1) Frame your essay with a clear, concise introduction and provide a clear, well-written thesis statement. Write an interesting and thoughtful conclusion to the paper.
- 2) Your paper should briefly summarize the song/ video in its proper historical context.
- 3) Use your DOC analytical tools to develop several analytical paragraphs. Each paragraph should include a topic sentence, supporting details or examples (from the song and other related materials), and analysis or explanation of those details and examples.
- 4) Cite all quotations and paraphrases in your paper using tips from section.
- 5) Include a properly formatted Works Cited page and be sure to proofread for mechanical errors.

Suggested Pre-Writing Timeline:

► Students are instructed to follow their TA’s instructions for any changes to this schedule.

Week 2 Section 2	Week 3 Section 1	Week 3 Section 2	Week 4 Section 1	Week 4 Section 2
Free-writing/ journaling on the paper. Q&A. Brainstorming possible topics/ideas.	Free-writing continued. Collect possible resources. Map or chart ideas; review notes.	Write a rough draft of at least two body paragraphs.	Rough draft of introduction and conclusion of the paper.	Final editing and revision work.

Academic Integrity and Outside Sources: To complete the assignment, students should use course materials (lecture notes and readings) and should not use outside sources. You must include a works cited page for this assignment, and proper citation of others’ work is required. *Students agree that by taking this course required papers will be subject to submission for textual similarity review to Turnitin for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. Use of the Turnitin service is subject to the terms of use agreement posted on the Turnitin.com site.*

Evaluation Rubric

Grade Range	Description
“A” Range – Exceptional Response	The “A” paper is exceptional in two major ways. 1) It is very well written, using reader-oriented prose throughout. 2) It demonstrates advanced lyrical analysis of the content, with a close reading of the best chosen elements of the song/performance. Analysis of examples is extremely well-developed and connected back to main points. It often goes beyond the obvious points. Paragraphs are logically ordered and build on one another. Proofreading and editing are superb. Most importantly, it is interesting to read! It really makes readers think about the topic.
“B” Range – Strong and Successful Response	The “B” paper is mostly well written, with only a few mistakes, and demonstrates an effective response to the topic. However, some balance of writing or content could be improved. Examples are mostly related to the point and tend to illustrate the point made in the paragraphs but some disconnections exist. Background and context are not always clear. In some cases, the analysis could be more developed or better connected to the thesis. Perhaps the organization of paragraphs could be re-ordered for reader comprehension. Proofreading and editing is mostly well done.
“C” Range – Adequate Response	The “C” paper demonstrates an adequate understanding of course content and reader-oriented prose. It addresses the prompt, but there are a few areas for improvement. The paper includes more summary than analysis. Key terms are used but their meaning may be unclear. Examples are present, but not clearly applied. In addition, a few paragraphs rely on unsupported generalizations and/or missing context. Citation issues may be present. In the future, additional editing and proofreading is necessary to organize and develop ideas throughout the paper.
“D” and Below Range – Incomplete Response	Work that earns a grade below a “C” indicates that the paper is an incomplete response to the assignment. A paper in this range may struggle with some/all of the following: the rough drafts with comments were not submitted with the final packet; examples are missing; paragraphs are mostly summary, with little analysis throughout; addresses the wrong prompt; fails to incorporate course readings and materials; has significant structural and distracting sentence-level errors. It may also contain evidence of plagiarism. The paper may have used outside sources.