

Small Project #1: Thinking through Popular Music

You've got 2 steps to complete below on this one.....not a huge project, but hopefully it'll get you thinking a bit more about popular music!

Please include steps 1-2 in a single document (Word, Pages, pdf) and submit on Brightspace

Due date:
Friday, October 25, 11:59pm



Step #1:

Go to <http://library.potsdam.edu/music>
On the left side of the page, you'll see a tab marked "articles." Please click on this.

You will now see three different databases listed under the heading "Music Articles"

1. Music Periodicals Database (formerly International Index to Music Periodicals)
2. Music Index
3. RILM Abstracts of Music Literature

Please use one or more of these databases and search by keyword for articles on "popular music" and 1910s, 1920s, 1930s, or 1940s. (please just pick one of the decades, you don't need to search for all of them).

You will likely want to "limit" your search to articles in English, and feel free to try a few of the other filters as well to help narrow your search.

Please select **three articles** that sound intriguing to you and paste in their citations to the top of your document. Feel free to use Chicago Manual, APA, or MLA style but *don't* just give me the link.

(let me know if you need help with any of this section—we're working on research fluency here!)

Step #2:

You've been hired as a producer on an NPR music show (think "Tiny Desk Concert") and the job that has landed on your to-do list is a roughly 10-minute segment on styles of popular music (hey, luckily you have a music degree, you've got this!)

Your specific assignment: pick **two** pieces of music to feature on this segment.

- One must be a single piece of **popular** music from **before** 1945, the other must be a single piece of **popular music** from **after** 1945.
- Otherwise? These pieces can be any genre, instrumentation, and from anywhere in the world (doesn't have to be from the US). The only thing you **can't** pick is Scott Joplin's "Maple Leaf Rag."
- Your two pieces should **connect** in some interesting way—thematically, technologically, via a topic or performer or dialogue on a subject. (Hey, no one wants to listen to a radio show called "random crap I threw together at the last minute, right?")

Got your two pieces chosen?

Ok, now pitch your program segment concept to your boss.

In a short writeup of **about 300-500 words**, please include some discussion of the bullet points below. It's up to you how you want to organize the writeup, but make it smooth and readable (otherwise your boss will be grumpy). Things you should include:

- The title of your two chosen pieces, the composer and/or performer's name, the style/genre of piece, and year released.
- For each piece, mention a bit of context, a bit of information about different elements (sound, lyrics, composer or performer bio, performance practice, industry practice, audience reception) as relevant. Try to offer a good assortment of information without overbalancing too much on one particular aspect.
- What makes these pieces popular music?
- What theme or concept connects your two pieces?