Core Values Playlist

Who we are, our character, is made up of values we hold dear. These values form the basis for how we act; these are formed by our experiences throughout our lives in increasingly wider contexts / cultures (from our family, to our friends, to our place of work, to our community, to our nation, etc.)

Throughout our experiences (which include things like reading the news, going to school, going to church, being part of a sports team or club, hanging out with friends, traveling abroad, etc.), we formulate a worldview or opinions about how the world should be, how people should act, and how we act in order to be in line with our integrity.  
   
Music with a message, or social commentary poetry, is an artist’s vehicle for promoting or commenting on the state of the world, society, humanity, as they see it.

The assignment that you will be doing to kick off the year has two purposes:

(1) to reflect on who you are and what you stand for

(2) to use and show how musical artists, through their social commentary/poetry, represent the core values that you hold dear and live by each day.

In order for this to work, it is important to choose songs that make a statement or carry weight, meaning they must mean something and reflect the values that you have identified as essential in your life.

For this assignment, you will brainstorm values that you identify as being important in your life. From your list, you will categorize them into “like” groups. Next you will be asked to narrow your list down to 6 core values that you live your life by, values you are not willing to compromise. Once you have narrowed down your list, you must ***research, create and share a six-song playlist that reflects your personal core values***.

**Playlist Reflection**

Using your 6-song playlist, you will write a reflection that explores how these songs represent values that are important for you in your life.

Your reflection should:

* include your full 6-song playlist
* show clear links between your 6 core values and the songs you have chosen that best describe them
* be interesting and easy to read (craft + fluency)
* have a good sense of voice (it should sound like you)
* be free of spelling and grammar mistakes
* be approx. 500 words in length
* be formatted in MLA

**→ Reflection draft due date: *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_***  (your draft will be read by 2 peers in the class who will provide you with constructive feedback)

**→ Final reflection due date: *Tuesday, September 28th***

**Sharing part of your playlist** – *Presentation day will be September 30th*

For the ‘sharing’ portion of the assignment, you will share your 6-song playlist (Written on the board or using technology) and present one song and its corresponding value(s) to the class. You may play part of the song (no more than 30 seconds), and/or read part of the lyrics to help explain to your group how this song represents certain value(s) that are important to you. **Presentations will be 2 minutes in length**.

Word of advice: it is important to choose a unique song that you don’t think many others will know so that the class will be exposed to a wider variety of songs/poems with a wider variety of messages and we can see the true diversity and potential of this genre.

**Playlist poem**

In this assignment, you must write a 100 word (minimum) found poem that is made up using ***ONLY*** the words/lines found in at least 3 of the songs from your personal playlist and reflects a value(s) you discussed in your reflection. Your poem must include at least two poetic devices that seamlessly add to the impact of your writing. All poems must include an original title, meaning the words in your title do not come from your song lyrics.

**Assignment Checklist**

Values brainstorming

Planning Document (Values exercise, preparation note sheets, all parts are filled in with extensive notes)

Reflection draft (with evidence of peer editing and feedback)

Final reflection with full playlist (you must also submit all of your planning documents)

Notes outlining your 2 minute oral presentation

Practice your presentation, and fine tune it to meet the time limit and so you know it without notes and it is engaging and totally reflects YOU

Present your playlist

Playlist poem

*Make sure that the playlist reflects YOU and that it provides a small window into who you are and what’s important to you.*