

“Lyrics You Love” Paper
First Paper for Writing 2, Spring 2006

Task

Option One

This paper asks that you introduce, in a critical and engaging way, your peers in the class to music and lyrics that you love, but others might not be aware of. To do this, you will select three sets of lyrics (or you can write about poetry if you desire) by a **particular artist**. You will want to choose three sets of lyrics, or poems, that have some emotional, thematic, and artistic heft of depth to them. For instance, it would be tough to write about Hansen’s “M’bop,” but much easier to write about Kanye West’s “Jesus Walks” or the Shins “Young Pilgrims.” Make sure that you choose lyrics you actually love, lyrics that have interesting images, and lyrics that have meaning past making one want to boogie.

You are going to write a thesis-based paper that describes how **two or three** poems or songs reflect the **importance** of the singer, group, or poet that you choose to work with. You will need to develop subtopics and topic sentences to support your thesis, and you will need to quote from the lyrics that you have collected to provide evidence for the point you want to make about the poet, singer, or group you chose to work with. (To see an example that I wrote, go to <http://www.writing.ucsb.edu/faculty/dean> and click on the “Classpages link” to go to your class.)

Option Two

You will review a CD or music performance for a group of people interested in the group or performer you are reviewing. You need to give a good, balanced review—pointing out particular points of praise or blame. **You will also need to have a unifying theme or idea at the center of your piece.** This cannot be a simple recap of what you saw or heard.

Role and Audience

The immediate audience is the folks in this class—both your classmates and me. You want to turn them onto good music. Also, you will be writing for a wider audience, since we will publish this as an electronic book. Folks, both inside and outside of this class, are generally impressed by clear, concise writing, solid grammar, and, most of all, writing that makes a point in a way that makes one want to keep on reading. Thus, this is a paper that you can use “I” in, and you should try to write in an engaging way.

Format

Your piece should be 4-6 pages in length, all of it double-spaced, and it must have a complete Works Cited or References page. You can use APA or MLA formatting for in-text citations, and you must cite all information that wasn’t in your head before you began writing the paper. A hint on margins: make sure that you change your margins to one-inch all around by going to the file menu, selecting “Page Setup,” and changing the margins to one inch all around before you start typing. A hint on spacing: If you use an apple, then hit open apple+2 to get double spacing before you begin typing; if you use a PC, the hit Ctrl+2 to get double spacing before you begin typing.

Expectations about the Process to be Followed

You will write a first draft to get peer and teacher review. All reviews will be written. Then you will write a final draft, and then you get to **choose** whether or not this piece will be graded in your midterm and final portfolios. When you turn in your final draft, I expect to see the first draft with comments staple, paper clipped, or otherwise attached to your final draft.

Criteria for Evaluation

This paper will principally be judged on how effectively you prove your thesis; **you will not be evaluated on the type of music you write about or your opinion of it.** Spelling and grammar, as well as using proper MLA or APA style, will count as well. For more specific information read the attached rubric, which will not be used to grade the piece, but it will give you an idea of what you need to do to write a successful paper.

Due Dates:

- **Draft One Due Date:** _____
- **Final Draft Due Date:** _____