THE SOUNDTRACK OF YOUR LIFE

Music has become an integral part of human existence. It motivates us, calms us, inspires us, at times irritates us, and basically becomes the backdrop against which we live our lives. Songs can bring vivid memories of persons, places, and events from our own past and serve to document our thoughts, feelings, and emotions at a given time or place.

Last year, as freshmen, I asked you to write a letter where you shared your personality through music. It was a way for me to learn a little more about you, and a way for you to show me your writing. This year, I am again asking for you to connect your life with music in your first written assignment; however, now that you are a little older, I want you to think back on indelible moments in your life so far in order to create a Soundtrack of Your Life.

What are 3 important events or parts of your life? If these events were to play out as a movie, what music would be in the background and why?

You will complete this task by following the writing process:
1. Brainstorm --- life events that are important to you AND music that connects
2. Prewrite --- outline your soundtrack to organize it best
3. Draft --- write your reflection letter following your outline; fill in the letter with examples, description, and figurative language we discuss in class. *This should be typed.
4. Revise and Edit --- have someone else look over your letter and give you feedback; look over your letter yourself; make changes to your work to make it make more sense and more interesting to read; finally, check for spelling and word usage errors.
5. Publish --- finally, you will publish your letter to me. You will create a folder in your Google Drive titled Soundtrack of Your Life. Within this folder you will publish a draft AND a revision.

1A Brainstorming: To begin this assignment, brainstorm a broad number of events that have occurred in your life. Try to think of 7-8. These events can be anything that has been important to you and that you feel has shaped you as a person.

1B Choose and Connect: Look closely at the list you have brainstormed and pick at least three events you want to represent with music. Now, think about these events and what type of music fits each. Choose a song or other musical piece to accompany each event. Remember this is a school assignment, so choose songs that are appropriate to share with your peers and teachers.

Just as music producers do, try to create a progression in the sequence of your chosen songs. For example, your songs might be listed in the chronological order of the events they document, or they might be mixed together so that all of the slow songs are not back-to-back. DO NOT just list them randomly. Put some thought into the order of your songs and the complete package you are presenting.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Song Title</th>
<th>Artist or Group</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Track 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Track 2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Track 3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2. **Prewrite/Outline:** Now that you have created the imaginary soundtrack to your life, prewrite a reflective letter (addressed to “Dear Listener,”) that explains why you chose these events and songs. For each song you will need to reflect on the experiences, persons, places, etc. that inspired this selection. Obviously, you will also need to explain who you are as a person and then offer some type of reflection upon the imaginary album as a whole. Again, for the purposes of this assignment, be sure that this letter is school appropriate.

   *Use the outline attached to help you construct this letter.* You need to cover each topic listed in the appropriate number of paragraphs; the questions listed are there to help you begin thinking about the topic. Remember, in reflective writing, longer is usually better!

3. **Draft:** Following your outline, write out your letter completely, adding in more details and explaining examples. *Within your letter, you must include a metaphor, simile, hyperbole, and personification.*

   *Save in your Soundtrack of Your Life folder as SOYL_draft.*

4. **Revise and Edit:** Use the revision and editing checklists to review your work and make changes where needed.

5A. **Publish:** Publish final, complete letter to me using your Google Drive account. Document title: **Soundtrack of Your Life.**

   Use the following header at the top left corner of your letter:  
   
   **Name**
   **Class**
   **Date**
   **Assignment (Soundtrack of Your Life)**

5B. **Publish:** Now that the writing portion of this assignment is complete, it is time to share your soundtrack with your peers. (What is the use of producing an album if there is no one to listen?)

   On your writing blog, post your 3 tracks along with the introduction to your letter. Include an album cover as well. It can be something you create or other image that represents your album.

   We will use your album as our refresher course on publishing to our websites and how to comment on peers' work.
Outline

#1—Introduction — Explanation of yourself (One paragraph): This paragraph is basically a brief autobiography:

- Who are you?

-- Where are you from?

-- Where are you now? Etc. etc.

#2—Explanation of this soundtrack (One paragraph): This paragraph outlines your rationale or purpose in creating this soundtrack:

- What is this album you have created?

- Why are you completing it? (because it is an assignment is NOT an answer!)

- What do you hope to get out of this project?

- What goals did you have for creating it?

#3—Explanation of each song on the soundtrack (One paragraph per song): This section is made up of many smaller paragraphs. Song by song be sure to explain:

A) What is the name of the song and the artist?

- Why is this song important to you?

-- How does this song connect to your life?
What does this song reveal about the kind of person you are and what you think is important in your life?

B) What is the name of the song and the artist?

Why is this song important to you?

-- How does this song connect to your life?

What does this song reveal about the kind of person you are and what you think is important in your life?

C) What is the name of the song and the artist?

Why is this song important to you?

-- How does this song connect to your life?

What does this song reveal about the kind of person you are and what you think is important in your life?

#4—Final remarks and reflection on the soundtrack as a whole (One paragraph): This paragraph is your conclusion in which you should thank your reader for taking the time to listen to your soundtrack and offer any final reflections upon this project as a whole. You should also mention your songs again.
Revision

**ORGANIZATION**

____# of paragraphs

**Introduction**

Is there a hook? Y N
Is there a thesis statement Y N

**Body Paragraphs**

1. Event ___________________
   
   Song and artist ____________________________
   
   Explains why this song Y N
   How song connects to life Y N
   What song reveals Y N

2. Event ___________________
   
   Song and artist ____________________________
   
   Explains why this song Y N
   How song connects to life Y N
   What song reveals Y N

3. Event ___________________
   
   Song and artist ____________________________
   
   Explains why this song Y N
   How song connects to life Y N
   What song reveals Y N

**Conclusion**

Thanks reader Y N
Mentions ALL 3 events/songs Y N
Reflects on project Y N

**FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE**

Metaphor -- highlight in green on document and write the sentence below:

Simile -- highlight in yellow on document and copy the sentence below:

Hyperbole -- highlight in purple on document and copy the sentence below:

Personification -- highlight in blue on document and copy the sentence below:

**Editing**

Are all paragraphs indented? Or did the writer skip lines? If paragraphs are not indented, draw the paragraph sign where the indent should go.

Highlight any spelling mistakes or word misusage in pink. Watch out for were vs. where; this vs. these; and others.

Are there any confusing sentences? Mark them with a question mark.