Name: _____

Life Soundtrack: The Songs We Live By

Shakespeare said, "All the world's a stage…." If we update the metaphor, we might say "Life is a movie...," and the music we listen to is the soundtrack. For most of us, music is an integral part of the human experience. It motivates us, soothes us, inspires us, sometimes irritates us, and becomes part of the backdrop against which we live our lives. Songs can conjure vivid memories of people, places, and events. They serve to document our thoughts and emotions at a given time or place. This writing assignment will require you to consider some of the significant events in your life and find songs to represent them. You will then write the liner notes: a series of narrative and/or reflective vignettes that explain the selections on your Life Soundtrack.

Brainstorming: There are a couple ways to approach this. You could begin by selecting some significant events in your life and then searching for songs that represent them, or you could start with songs you already know and apply them to life events. (Many of you have probably already done this informally: Certain songs remind you of certain events, or you may know a song that blends music and lyrics to perfectly express your feelings.) Use the chart below to outline your ideas. Keep the Life Events in chronological order (the order they happened) from the beginning of your life up to now. Try to represent all the stages you have gone through so far. (You could also put in one at the end to represent your future plans.) In selecting your songs, consider the musical genre, style, tone, mood, and lyrics. The music on most soundtracks varies in style, so you'll want a variety. Don't have an entire collection of the same type of song or the same band. Also, remember that life is full of ups and downs, so you don't want an entire album of melancholy love songs or angry speed metal. Mix it up!

Life Event	Song Title	Artist/Group/Composer

If you need more space, continue this chart on another page.