

Life Soundtrack Liner Notes: Final Drafts

Life Soundtrack Final Drafts are due on or before **May 24th**! They must include the following elements:

- Who Am I? (1-2 paragraphs)
 - This section is a brief introduction. Introductions are important because they give the reader a frame of reference. Who are you? Where have you been and where are you going in life? What do you think this collection of songs says about you?
- Stories/Reflections/Narrative Vignettes (1-2 paragraphs per song)
 - You wrote your first draft on the handouts provided in class. Using those handouts as a starting point, flesh out the stories that the songs represent, and say why each song is an accurate reflection of the events. Quote only the lyrics that are significant to your story; **DO NOT MERELY COPY ALL THE LYRICS TO ALL THE SONGS**. Explain why the style, tone, or mood of each song captures the essence of the experience for you and what the song reveals about the kind of person you are and what you believe is important in life.
- Conclusion (1 paragraph)
 - Write final remarks. You may thank your “listeners,” or offer any final reflections upon this project as a whole: What does it tell people about you? Is it truthful? What do you want listeners of your Life Soundtrack to think about? What did you learn about yourself or about life while putting this together?

Due Date: May 24, 2018

Suggestions for Revision

- Keep your audience in mind: classmates, peers, and teachers. Reach out to them. Intrigue them. Your purpose is to explain why the songs you have chosen are appropriate to represent the people, places, and associations in your life. If this is done well, readers may even want to listen to the songs you have selected and/or examine the lyrics more carefully.
- Care. Do not just type up exactly what you had written on the prewrite...and nothing more. Give your liner notes some substance. The most engaging soundtracks are the ones that include stories, descriptions (brief character sketches) of the people involved, and something that seems more personal than just the bare minimum. Show; don't tell.
- Conventional Issues: Please clean up spelling, capitalization, and punctuation errors. If you type your Life Soundtrack in Word, you can use all the built-in tools to make many of these corrections for you, but many conventional mistakes are just careless ones. You can catch most of them by proofreading carefully. This is a formal, academic writing assignment, so it has to be more proper and correct than a text message.
- Grammar Punk: Just to illustrate that you have, in fact, learned something about commas this year, I would like your final draft to include *at least one sentence that illustrates each of the seven Grammar Punk comma rules*. Comma Rules 1, 3, 5, and 7 require you to combine multiple ideas into a single sentence. Comma Rules 2 and 4 require you to include some description. Comma Rule #6 requires some dialogue. Of course, you have probably already included some of these types of sentences, but now I'd like you to pay close attention to the many different ways sentences can be put together and show that you can do it yourself. (No, you don't have to roll the dice this time or annotate your writing to show me where the sentences are; just focus on the punctuation rules.) Also, in the course of your paper, include at least one correctly used semicolon (;) and one correctly used colon (:).
- Format for Neatness: Put song titles in quotation marks. Use boldface text and an extra space to offset each new song choice. This will make it much easier for your readers to see the sections in your letter. (See the model on the other side of this page.) It should not look like one massive block of text. Make this something you are proud of on all levels. Also, be careful with copying and pasting pictures or exotic fonts. The wiki sometimes gets bogged down with such stuff and will not display it properly.

Model from Thompson's Life Soundtrack:

“Time Stand Still” by Rush – When I was in college, I was always in a rush (*heh-heh, get it?*), running to school all day and work in the evening. I felt like I never had time to slow down and enjoy life or even pay attention to it. There was always a paper due, a job to finish, a commitment to meet. This song came out on a new Rush album, and I immediately related to the feeling expressed by these lyrics: “Summer’s going fast / Night’s growing colder / Children growing up / Old friends growing older....” Flash forward 25 years to the summer of 2013. I was at a Rush concert at the USANA amphitheater. My two children, who were raised on Rush, were on my left, and my best friend, who has liked Rush as long as I have, was on my right. Shortly after the concert started, the band played “Time Stand Still,” and when Geddy sang that lyric, I was almost overcome by emotion. *I’m actually living the song!* I thought. It was a powerful and memorable experience. I’m going to see them again this summer with the same group of people! Time stand still, indeed!

[Note: Headings in bold, song titles in quotes, extra space between songs/stories]

“Don’t Fear the Reaper” by Blue Oyster Cult – When I graduated....

Your final draft may include the following optional elements:

- Hyperlinks (or embedded links) to the songs and/or videos that you have included, so your digital readers can actually hear the music you are referring to in your writing
- Pictures, graphics, or illustrations
- Other creative extras that enhance the reading experience
- If you include these elements and they do, in fact, improve the overall experience for the reader, you will get some extra credit

Another Optional Extra:

- Create a music CD of your Life Soundtrack, complete with jewel case, cover art, etc. Include the liner notes in a “booklet” inside the jewel case. This is not required, but it is cool. You can do it if you want to spend the extra time. And, yes, the really excellent examples will get extra credit. (One way or another, it is a very cool thing to have in your CD library, and if you go to the trouble of making one, why not make one for me to show off to next year’s students?)

Submit the final draft of your Life Soundtrack Liner Notes by **May 24th**!

Again, that due date is May 24, 2018!

