

In Class Project: Putting it All Together (Fall 2016)

During lecture time on Friday 11/4; Monday 11/7; Friday 12/2; Monday 12/5. Essay and outline due: Monday 12/5, via Moodle, at the end of the class.

Hint:

- Your paper need to have a clear structure which includes an introduction, motivation, background, a central argument, a few sub-arguments, supporting facts (several for each argument), conclusion and discussion.
- Be careful of how you present your argument(s), it could easily become unfocused.
 - One central argument is enough, do not jump all over the place.
 - Less/clear is more.
 - Don't forget to cite your resources in the final version of your paper. If you find something you like today, write it down.

Topic 1

Digital Music Sampling: Creativity or Criminality?

The advent of the sampler has brought a long tradition of musical borrowing into the digital age. Today, the technique of "sampling", or repurposing a snippet of another artist's music, can be observed in various genre of music. Is sampling theft, or is it copyright law making creativity a crime?

Topic 2

Analyzing John Cage's 4'33" and Its Musical Impact

4'33" is a three-movement composition by American experimental composer John Cage (1912-1992). It was composed in 1952, for any instrument or combination of instruments. For this piece, the performer(s) are not to play their instrument(s) during the entire duration of the piece. The title of the piece refer to the total length of time. It is called "Cage's most famous and controversial creation". Why is this so? Is this music?

Hint:

- Two approaches: from the technical perspective and/or from the cultural perspective:
 - If you argue from a technical perspective then the correspondent Chapter in the textbook can serve as a good starting point for you.
 - Don't only rely on the book; try finding other resources (such as books and articles) that supports your arguments.
 - Be careful of the type of resources you cite.
- If you argue from a cultural perspective, there are some great anecdotes out there:
 - The UK Christmas number one campaign
- Or both:
 - You need to have a very clear structure in that case. It could easily become unfocused.

Grading Guide

Points total: 13

- Your position paper has a clear structure which includes an introduction, motivation, background, a central argument, a few sub-arguments, supporting facts (several for each argument), conclusion and discussion: 3 points.
- Your central argument is clear and concise: 2 points.
- Your sub-arguments are clear, concise, and relate to your central argument: 3 points.
- All your arguments are supported by research. It is clear that you spent a lot of time reading articles. All your resources are properly cited: 3 points.
- You provided outline for your paper. I can see the connection between the outline and the final version of your paper: 2 points.