

FTS-100-349

First Term Seminar
It's Just Noise/Music

Project 1

- Critical thinking is the ability to think clearly and rationally. In essence, critical thinking requires you to use your ability to reason. This project is designed to help you with the skill of reasoning.
- Can you reason with me why you like these albums?
- Try painting a picture for the reader. What are the songs about? What is the background for the album?

Project 1

- Project 1 and project 2 are connected. Project 2 is an extension of project 1.
- In project, you will write a mini essay on your favorite music albums. You may choose two albums and your essay must consist of more than three paragraphs.
- You will also prepare a small presentation on the subject, Your presentation will be under five minutes. You may use visual or audio aids in your presentation.

Project 1

- If you write “the songs are catchy”, then my argument back to you is “are there any other albums with catchier songs?” I assume no, so your goal for the rest of the essay will be trying to show me that the songs on your favorite album are the catchiest (which I don't think you want to do).
- These arguments are not effective unless they are furthered explained. For example, why is being catchy an important quality to have in songs? If a song is catchy, does that automatically make it a good song?

Project 1

- Your goal is to describe the album so carefully that your readers have an “image” of the album in their head.
- Some typical methods other writers had used are to describe the background, or to list similar bands or similar genre of sound.
- Then, once the albums are described, relate the albums back to you and what you need in your music. Why can you relate to these albums?
- It is okay if you hit a wall at the end (for now), I just want to see your complete thought process and your reasoning.

Project 1

- For your presentation, you must clearly convey each of your points. You may use audio or visual aids (such as slides, video clips or sound clips) to support your arguments and to make your presentation more interactive.
- During your presentation, if your points are not fully realized (and don't worry, I expect some of them won't be), I will point them out for discussion.
- Remember, your write-up is due AFTER the presentation, so you can make changes to your write-up according to the discussion.
- Also, hopefully the discussion we had on your project 1 will help with your project 2.

Project 1

- You will review two of your favorite albums. For each album, list three fully realized arguments/ points (up to me, the grader). You will receive a deduction if any of your points is not fully realized. You should also back up your arguments with research, quotes or citations, although they are not a requirement for this particular project.
- To cite a resource, please read pages 41 - 44 in your text book (EasyWriter). You may choose to use any of the citation styles for this particular project.

Project 1

- Points total: 10
- Essay
 - Your mini essay should have a clear structure that includes an introduction and a conclusion.
 - All your arguments should be clearly presented: 1 point.
 - Each of your arguments should be fully realized and supported: you are to choose two albums, for each album, you are to present three arguments, for a total of 6 points.
- Presentation
 - Each of your arguments is clearly presented: 2 points
 - Your presentation is engaging. You make good use of audio and visual aids: 1 point

Project 1 Due Dates

- Your mini essay is due on Friday, 9/23/2016 by the start of the class. For this project, you must hand in a hard copy of your mini essay. You should also have your presentation ready to go by Friday, 9/16/2016.

9/12	-	- Advising: semester goal setting		Advising homework # 1
9/14	-	- Introducing the first short writing and presentation assignment (favorite albums (1))	The first short written and presentation assignment (favorite albums (1))	-
9/16	-	- Example: music reviews - Overview on written project: writing your own album review (2)	Written project: album review (2) Advising homework # 2	
9/19	-	- Short presentation on favorite albums (1) , students 1 - 4	-	-
9/21	-	- Short presentation on favorite albums (1) , students 5 - 8	-	-
9/23	-	- Short presentation on favorite albums (1) , students 9 - 13 - Introducing second advising homework	-	Your short writing on " favorite albums (1) " due in hard copy, by the start of the class

Order of Presentations

- Pick a post-it note

Leading Up to Project 2: Good vs Bad Art

- John Cage, 4'33 (live with violin soloist): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Oh-o3udlmy8>
- Yoko Ono, Voice Piece For Sopranos (live at MOMA): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7GMHl7bmlzw>
- What makes a piece of art "good"? What make it "bad"?
- If they are all subjective, what's the point of the reviews?

Leading Up To Project 2: Music Review

- Write down your thoughts as you watch the review:
- What do you like about the review?
- What do you not like about the review?
- Any other thoughts and inspirations.