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I wasn't able to attend class on Friday however beforehand I asked several classmates for assistance on my essay.

They helped me pick a topic and gave me pointers on the subtopics I should focus on. They were a huge help and allowed me to pick a topic I could really write about.

I cannot give a grade because I could not attend the workshop.

Cultural myths widely associated with music.

**Commented [LK1]:** MLA problems with your title and your header

What type of music do you listen to? An answer to this question may very well define your identity to many people. It may paint a mental image of what sort of individual you are. What type of friends you have, what you like to do in your free time, and how you conduct yourself in public. Culture and music are directly associated as individual cultures often have their own type of music which are typically affected by historic events. Music is a form of expression, a method of expressing feeling in a media that can enjoyed by others. It has the power to invoke powerful emotions in the listener, emotions that the artist feels and transfer upon you. However, musical suffers greatly from cultural myths and how people misunderstand the genre because of their own basis. Hip-hop/rap, classical music, and country music are excellent examples of genres in which the music is greatly misunderstood they are attributes with individuals or behavior that are divergent from the cultural standard.

**Commented [LK2]:** Try to avoid starting sentences with pronouns – doing so allows you to achieve better clarity with your ideas and arguments.

**Commented [LK3]:** #2 Avoid sentence fragments

☑ Sure, there are times when you can consciously use a sentence fragment in your writing. But more often than not you aren't doing it on purpose, and fragments are largely frowned upon in academic writing. What is a fragment? An incomplete sentence starting with a capital and ending with a period.

☑ Consider this example: "They tried to understand Arturo's objections. Which were unfounded." You can change these multiple ways. How about adding a subject to the second part of the fragment so it becomes: They were unfounded. Or you could link the sentence parts with a comma after objections. Or simply move the word unfounded up in the sentence to describe Arturo's objections and get rid of the "Which were."

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EXTRA LINE

<https://www.google.com/#q=get+rid+of+the+extra+line+in+word>

The rap/hip-hop genre has in recent years gained a much wider audience base and yet despite all this, many still consider the genre widely inappropriate due to the language and direct message. In truth rap, and many other forms of music, are simply misunderstood and are not deeply looked into. The underlying message is typically deep but, uses unconventional methods. A perfect example is Jay-Z's song 99 problems, "In the second verse, Jay-Z describes being pulled over by a cop back in 1994. Professor Mason goes over that verse line by line, and holds it up against the Fourth Amendment, which protects against unreasonable searches and seizures."(Harris) This example serves two purposes, to demonstrate the style of lyrics in this

**Commented [LK5]:** Work on your Quoteburgers and your punctuation of in text citations.

**Commented [LK6]:** #3: Avoid comma splices

☑ A comma splice occurs when two or more independent clauses (word groups that could stand alone as separate sentences) are joined simply by a comma.

☑ There is typically a coordinating conjunction missing (For, And, Nor, But, Or, Yet, So). Use a semicolon instead. Or a period.

☑ What coordinating conjunction could be said to be missing from the following comma splice? "In 1800, a traveler needed six weeks to get from New York City to Chicago, in 1860, the trip by railroad took two days." After Chicago you could have used a "but," right? Why not use a semicolon now. Or a period.

genre that are typically misunderstood and it shows the message that are often looked over in this style of music. The message in hip-hop/rap is often viewed as an encouragement to misbehave and a bad influence to a younger audience, often the typical listeners of this sort of music. The

general appearance and demeanor of the artists that write and perform the music often serves as evidence supporting widely held stereotypes. Many artists attach themselves to a stereotype of a frightening individual, a criminal who has gone to jail, someone who doesn't care. While in some cases all of the traits mentioned applied, a great majority of artists are individuals who have gone to school and were great students. "[T]he current roster of hip-hop heavyweights includes a number of educated rappers who spent some time writing essays and research papers before penning radio-friendly couplets." (Green) As mentioned in the quote many of the artists are far from what the stereotypes suggest and simply attach themselves with the stereotype. This is something done because without the stereotype their music wouldn't sell and their message wouldn't get out. By allowing the stereotype of hip-hop/rap artists to attach to them, they gain a fan group and a constant audience. This allows them to produce music, which mainstream audiences may misinterpret, and have it appreciated by individuals who look into the lyrics of the music and find the deeper meaning in the music. The reason mainstream audiences don't look into the deeper meaning of the music is because of the cultural myths attached to it and as a result, this holds back the genre from progressing.

**Commented [LK7]:** Quotes are plopping ALL OVER THE PLACE! Revisit our discussion of QBs.

**Commented [LK8]:** Very well put.

Classical music is typically seen as music of the past, created without the assistance of technology and outdated for the modern world. The cultural myth can be easily seen, classical music is for the older generation and will soon die out. This belief is widely held by the 'newer' generation who prefer music that has been greatly edited, electronically modified, and differs greatly from the traditional sounds of instruments. "This is one of the real things that puts many listeners off, the idea that to be able to understand Harrison Birtwistle or Judith Weir, Pauline Oliveros or Howard Skempton, you need to have a working knowledge, and preferably a PhD, in music history from plainchant to Prokofiev, and/or you need to be part of a club of contemporary

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music groupies.” (Service) This idea is what makes people believe that it will soon die out, the idea that classical music can be listened to only a select few. This affects the average individual’s opinion toward the genre before listening. Another major factor that contributes to the cultural myth is the lack of lyrics. In today’s standard for music, the background instrumentals serve as support for the lyrics which provide the artists method. This is why classical music is often misinterpreted and considered so difficult to understand. The message the music provides the listener is in the instrumental music rather than being conveyed by lyrics. The instrumental music provides the audience with only the general emotion that it wants the audience to feel. The rest is left to the audience. What they imagine, how they feel, and their reaction is left to the audience to decide. Unlike musical genres that include lyrics provide the audience with many of these details leaving the audience imagining, feeling, and reacting based on the artists mindset. There is less room for unique thought but, it can be appreciated with less effort. In a way it is like comparing a poem to a young adult’s novel. The novel’s story is clearly laid out and leaves the reader with only the task of imagining what it tell the reader to imagine however, a poem on the other hand needs to be analyzed and deeply explored to discover the message left by the author. Both also happen to greatly disliked by the newer generation because it requires analysis rather than simply being fed the message of the author. However, the idea that this genre of music is dying off and will no longer be relevant is nothing more than a cultural myth, far from the truth. In fact, classical music will always be relevant due to its ability to trigger emotions. “Forty-seven years after her death, Edith Piaf is soundtracking the biggest, darkest, most bombastic blockbuster of the summer. Composer Hans Zimmer has revealed that Inception’s entire soundtrack, from the booming trombone theme to the strains of rising dread, originates from one of the chanteuse’s most famous songs.” (Michaels) This simply shows how far from death the

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genre is and how reverent to the modern generation classical music is. The soundtrack in inception lays an emotional foundation for what is occurring on screen, something possible only because of the classical music genre. The cultural myth that classical music is irreverent in modern times and that it is near death is far from the truth, it is simply suffering from the misunderstanding of the modern generation as to its purpose, place, and audience.

Banjos and harmonicas or acoustic guitars and slow lyrics, some of the typical stereotypes held by the average person when they think of country music. The cultural myth associated with this genre is the sound of the music and the person who performs it. A popular example, although **no** the best, is Taylor Swift. Her music originated as country and although she started as the typical stereotype, she altered her music and varied greatly from the stereotypical country music. "Swift's easy mastery of such contemporary country tropes suggested she'd quickly feel limited by the genre." (Harris, K) This shows that although her variation did introduce the idea that stereotypical country is not the only country music in the world, even she eventually moved past the style to allow herself greater expression. This cultural myth is difficult to really call a myth. This is simply because the stereotypical country is the version of country that is so popular. However, the myth comes along when you look at all of the county music of the modern era. "Too diverse to nail down." (Country Weekly Staff) This is a perfect description of country music, the sound of country is far more diverse than what the popular standard is. What makes listening to country difficult for some people is they association the typical banjo, harmonica, or acoustic guitar music they may have heard from main stream country artists and applied the sound to the genre as a whole.

Hip-hop/rap, classical music, and country music are ideal examples of genres in which the music is greatly misunderstood due to a variety of factors. Each of the genres suffers from a different

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cultural myth but all result in the genre of music being limited in its progressive ability. While each myth is simply that, a myth, they are myths that are widely held and believed. As a result they define how the modern culture views the various genres and thus is attributed as a cultural myth. While there are many arguments for why this is typically viewed as negative, they do serve as an identifier of our culture. Thus cultural myths will always be important to the culture of a people. They will define that belief or what the culture strives to overcome. There are many aspects to of culture to which cultural myths apply to but, possibly none affect as large aspect of culture as the cultural myths attached to music.

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**Commented [LK12]:** Ok, so you've got the concept of cultural myth down, and esp that of cultural myth in music. How does this relate to you, though? Can you turn this from a research paper into a narrative? I'm attaching some notes to the rubric I will hand out in class, and I'd suggest that you read over the rubric, the notes, and then also consider how you can put more of yourself into this essay. It's a narrative, and don't forget that that means personal story, as well as it means for you to provide those five things referenced in the assignment sheet when focusing on narrative.

This is a great research paper – now put some Dmitry in it.  
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