**Chapter 7 Overview**

I have always thought everyone should have a theme song – one that plays while they are walking down the street or hallway. What would yours be? Sure, it could vary by mood and day. I love music. Almost every day, I relate something to a song. And, I love to have it playing in the background. I find it to be a very emotional medium. Of course, it isn’t all about music. Below is a brief overview sound recording:

The ability to record sounds began in 1877 with Thomas Edison’s invention of the phonograph. Though Edison’s machine could record and play back sound, it was relatively fragile and the tinfoil-covered cylinders could not be reproduced nor did they stand up to repeated playing. Emile Berliner’s gramophone, however, played music on flat discs that were stronger than

Edison’s cylinders and could be mass-produced. This technology allowed musical performances to be stored and replayed. As prerecorded music became widely available, the nature of musical consumption changed. People’s major contact with music became recordings by professional musicians rather than live performances by amateur performers.

Radio was an outgrowth of work done on the telegraph by Samuel Morse.

Physicists such as Heinrich Hertz conducted early experiments on the detection of radio waves, but Guglielmo Marconi developed the commercially viable wireless telegraph.

Radio was initially used as a tool for sending messages from one person to another. David Sarnoff was among the first to see radio’s potential as a tool for mass communication; CBS founder William Paley saw its potential as an advertising medium that incidentally provided entertainment. KDKA, the first commercial radio station, went on the air in 1920, ushering in the golden age of radio, in which radio was the dominant medium for home entertainment. Radio was also a major source of news, offering an intimacy and immediacy that newspapers couldn’t match.

The organizations ASCAP and BMI were established to ensure that musicians and composers would be paid for the music they wrote and performed on stage, on records, and on the radio, as well as songs published in written form.

A wide range of recording formats has been used over the years, including the 78-rpm disc, the 45-rpm single, the LP, the cassette tape, the compact disc, and the MP3 computer file. Each new format has given rise to concerns about changes in the purchasing and use of music.

Rock and roll was a hybrid style of music that grew out of white hillbilly music and black rhythm and blues in the late 1940s and early 1950s. Because rock and roll crossed racial lines, it became part of the integration of American society in the 1950s and 1960s. Rock and roll became popular largely through recordings sold in record stores and played on the radio rather than through live performances. It gradually evolved into an art form that existed primarily for recorded playback rather than live performance.

In the 1960s and 1970s rock music became more heavily produced, and there was a shift from hit singles to albums. Music by groups like the Beatles and

Pink Floyd brought the role of the producer to the forefront, a move that accelerated with the development of disco and rap.

Parents and other adults have expressed concern about rock music lyrics, which include profanity, discussions of suicide and violence, and sentiments that are derogatory toward women.

As television displaced radio as the dominant broadcast medium, radio was transformed into a companion medium with a wide range of formats designed to appeal to narrow, specific audiences. These formats include many types of music, Spanish-language broadcasting, talk, news, and sports.

FM has gradually replaced AM as the dominant radio band. Although FM has a shorter broadcast range, it has much higher-quality sound (higher fidelity).

While the majority of radio stations are commercial, public radio―a staple of FM radio programming―provides an important alternative. Terrestrial radio is still the dominant sound medium, however it is facing growing competition webcasting, podcasting, and satellite radio.

**Assignments:**

1. Choose your favorite song lyrics and submit those under the discussion board on a Word document. At the bottom of the document, answer these questions:
   1. What do these lyrics mean to you?
   2. Why do you enjoy this type of music?
   3. What does your affinity to these lyrics say about you?
2. Comment on the lyrics posted by two other people in the class on the discussion board.

NOTE: Everything here is submitted on the discussion board. Have fun!!!