

Course & Section: CMN 001 A18

Assignment: Informative Speech Outline

Name: Sriram Suresh

General Purpose: To inform

Specific Purpose: I will inform my audience about the culture and history of Rock music

Thesis statement: Today, I will inform you about the culture of rock music while touching on its origin, evolution, and some stereotypes commonly associated with it.

Main Points (topical organization pattern):

- Origin of rock music
- its evolution
- common stereotypes

Good morning, everyone. Have you ever seen someone blast loud and angry music with a lot of screaming and wondered what kind of maniac would willingly listen to that stuff? You may be surprised to know that this “angry screaming music” and the music of famous artists such as Michael Jackson, and even Olivia Rodrigo evolved from the same roots of rock music. I think I am decently qualified to inform you about rock music as I have been listening to it and following its culture closely since I was 12 years old. Today, I will inform you about the culture of rock music while touching on its origin, evolution, and some stereotypes commonly associated with it.

Subpoints:

- For “origin”:
 - commonly used instruments: To start off with origins of rock music, we will look at the structure of rock bands. Most rock bands have a guitarist who plays the electric guitar, a bassist, a drummer, and a singer.
 - parent music genres of Rock: Its immediate origins lay in a melding of various black musical genres of the time, including country, **rhythm and blues, and gospel music.**
 - Now to look at the incident that people believe led to the birth of Rock ‘n’ Roll. According to an article about pioneering songs of rock music on the website *culturesonar.com*, “... on the bumpy road to Memphis. A guitar amplifier fell off the top of the car, damaging its woofer. After arriving at the studio, Phillips stuffed the amp with brown wrapping paper; that would lead to the buzzing and distortion on the record, key elements of rock and roll.” This was how the first rock song called “Rocket 88” was created by the band Jackie Brenston and his Delta Cats in 1951.

Now that we have looked at the origin of rock music, I now want to talk about some of the ways rock music branched out that I find interesting.

- For “evolution”:

- genres that were born from rock and roll: One of the main subgenres of rock is called heavy metal and this genre uses faster tempos and screaming vocals.
- pioneering artists: The band Black Sabbath is considered by many to be the pioneers of heavy metal music as they were the first ones to make the music equivalent of horror movies, essentially songs that would scare/amuse listeners. They did this by using evil sounding musical intervals and by using scary imagery on their album covers.
- In the early 70s, due to the increased popularity of disco and pop music and artists such as Elton John and David Bowie, rock music started moving from the mainstream into the underground scene.

Since you now have a brief idea of what rock music evolved into, I now want to address some stereotypes commonly associated with rock music.

- For “common stereotypes”:
 - A subgenre of rock called punk got very famous in the 90s. Punk bands mostly sang about teenage angst and how the government was useless. An example of a punk band you may be aware of is Green Day, the band that wrote the song “Boulevard of broken dreams”.
 - Now I want to play a clip that shows what a typical heavy metal live show looks like.
 - After looking at the clip I just played, it is easy to assume that people who listen to more extreme genres of music are always angry. According to an article on surprising facts about metalheads on the website *loudwire.com*, “fans who were

made angry and then listened to heavy metal music did not increase their anger, but increased their positive emotions, suggesting that listening to extreme music represents a healthy and functional way of processing anger.”

- Now, I want to talk about some subcultures that emerged from punk rock such as goth and emo. These subcultures had people dressing up alternatively, as in the picture here. According to an article about alternative fashion’s move to the mainstream on the website *thefourthestate.net*, “Alt styles are known for ignoring society’s norms, as early as 1985 and 1995, during the rock era. The styles that started in the rock era did not become very popular until major social media platforms began to notice these styles and genres”.

In conclusion, we briefly went over the culture behind rock music while touching on its origin, its evolution over the years, and some stereotypes commonly associated with it. With this, I hope that the next time you see someone headbanging to music with angry screaming, you can recall why people listen to genres like these and look at the situation through a compassionate lens instead of negatively judging them.

Transitions:

- From ‘origin’ to ‘evolution’: Now that we have looked at the origin of rock music, I now want to talk about some of the ways rock music branched out that I find interesting.

- From ‘evolution’ to ‘common stereotypes’: Since you now have a brief idea of what rock ‘n’ roll evolved into, I now want to address some stereotypes commonly associated with rock music.

Presentation Aid:

- a short video clip of how fans enjoy more extreme genres of rock music at concerts
- an image of what stereotypical emo and punk music fans look like

Oral Citations:

- According to an article about pioneering songs of rock music on the website *culturesonar.com*, “... on the bumpy road to Memphis. A guitar amplifier fell off the top of the car, damaging its woofer. After arriving at the studio, Phillips stuffed the amp with brown wrapping paper; that would lead to the buzzing and distortion on the record, key elements of rock and roll.” This was how the first song that people consider rock was made and released by the Jackie Brenston and his Delta Cats and called “Rocket 88”.
- According to an article on surprising facts about metalheads on the website *loudwire.com*, “fans who were made angry and then listened to heavy metal music did not increase their anger, but increased their positive emotions, suggesting that listening to extreme music represents a healthy and functional way of processing anger.”

- According to an article about alternative fashion's move to the mainstream on the website *thefourthstate.net*, "Alt styles are known for ignoring society's norms, as early as 1985 and 1995, during the rock era. The styles that started in the rock era did not become very popular until major social media platforms began to notice these styles and genres".

Introduction:

Good morning, everyone. Have you ever seen someone blast loud and angry music with screaming and wondered what kind of maniac would willfully listen to that stuff? You may be surprised to know that this "angry screaming music" and the musical styles of famous artists such as Michael Jackson, and even Olivia Rodrigo evolved from the same roots of rock 'n' roll. I think I am decently qualified to inform you about rock music as I have been listening to it and following its culture closely since when I was in 7th grade. Today, I will inform you about the culture of rock music while touching on its origin, evolution, and some stereotypes commonly associated with it.

Conclusion:

In conclusion, we briefly went over the culture behind rock music while touching on its origin, its evolution over the years, and some stereotypes commonly associated with it. With this, I hope that the next time you see someone blasting loud music with angry screaming, you can recall

why people listen to genres like these and look at the situation through a compassionate lens instead of negatively judging them.

Works Cited:

- O'Toole, Kit. "'Rocket 88': One of The Pioneering Songs of Rock", *culturesonar.com*, Dec 15th, 2021, <https://www.culturesonar.com/rocket-88-one-of-the-pioneering-songs-of-rock/>
- Trapp, Philip. "12 Wild Things Science Has Discovered About Metalheads", *loudwire.com*, June 24th, 2021, <https://loudwire.com/heavy-metal-music-studies/>
- Nervo, Cierra. "Alternative Fashion's Move to Mainstream", *thefourthstate.net*, Dec 3rd, 2020, <https://thefourthstate.net/14201/lifestyle-2/alternative-fashions-move-to-mainstream/>