

Final Paper

Due (email a PDF) on November 6th
Length: 4-5 pages

For each year in 1980, go through the billboard top ten listings, and pick one pop song. This can be either the number one rated song, or it can be one that you think is particularly good or interesting.

Then, you'll do a little bit of writing about each song. Why did you pick it? What do you recognize in it from other genres that we have studied in this course? What do you think this tells us about the 1980s as a period in American history?

Finally, you'll have a brief concluding section, in which I would like to see you try to synthesize what you've learned. Do the songs, taken as a group, tell you anything about American popular music in general, or about the 1980s?