

Working Class Hero

Semester Project Instructions

Overview

Poet Walt Whitman wrote at great length about the characteristics that should be possessed by a poet or singer who wanted to speak for the people. Variouslly called a “folk singer”, an “artisan”, a “working class hero”, or a “poet of the people” by Whitman, this important part of society served the vital role of giving a voice to those who could not be heard by the rest of the people.

Your job is to choose a singing artist from the provided list, and then compare & contrast the artist with the characteristics provided by Whitman for the working class hero. You should clearly compare & contrast the life & characteristics of the artist with the ideal, and then reach a conclusion about how closely the artist matches the characteristics listed by Whitman. I have provided you (on another sheet) with the key characteristics of Whitman’s working class hero. One of the key characteristics was Whitman’s belief that only a man could fulfill this role. We will agree, for the purpose of this paper, that women artists are equally eligible to become Whitman’s “hero”.

This project consists of two parts: (1) A college-level research paper, and (2) A verbal summary given in class. Each part will be graded in the test category. The paper is as much about the mechanics of researching & writing a paper as it is about the content. The purpose of the verbal part is to allow us to better understand the lives of these artists and to have a little fun listening to their music.

Artist Chosen: _____

Date Due: _____

Written Report Requirements

- Your report must consist of the following parts:
 - cover sheet (Title, name, period, word count)
 - introduction (250-400 words)
 - report body (800-1000 words)
 - conclusion (250-400 words)
 - works cited page (at least 3 sources, only one from Internet)
- Written mechanics
 - Length: 1300-1800 words (intro, body, & conclusion)
 - 1 inch margins on all sides
 - Double-spaced, easily read font of size 12
 - Formatted according to MLA writing standards
 - Written using acceptable grammar & spelling. Sound report structure & mechanics are also essential. I expect college-level research & writing on this project.
 - Internal citations must be used
- Although not required, I strongly recommend you let me take a look at the following parts of your report as you complete them:
 - Historic question & thesis
 - Formatted list of sources
 - Outline
 - Rough draft
 - Works cited page

Turn-It-In.com

Your final paper must be processed through Turn-It-In.com. This must be completed by the due date and your receipt must be turned in with your report.

Verbal Requirements

- Your verbal presentation will consist of two one-minute parts:
 - A one-minute summary of your artist's career and your assessment of how well they fit Whitman's "working class hero".
 - A one-minute song clip by your artist.

Verbal Summary

- You will present a one-minute summary that provides brief information on:
 - Artist's Name
 - Genre(s)
 - Career Highlights
 - Interesting facts
- I am looking for a college-level verbal summary of the information. This isn't something you want to do extemporaneously (on the fly) while you are standing there.
 - Use good verbal presentation techniques.
 - This is a summary. Don't plan on going long on time.
 - I want to see some evidence of a well-thought out structure to your presentation.
 - Use a notecard, but don't read to us.

Music Clip

- Find a representative music video on YouTube. Be sure to write down the exact name of the clip so we can find it quickly on the school computer.
 - Be sure you have previewed the clip before we see it. I don't want anything inappropriate on the music or its video.
- Be prepared to briefly (one or two sentences) introduce the song.
- I will play the 1st 60 seconds of the clip for the class.

Timing

- Plan to use a total of 2 minutes for your presentation (1 minute verbal, 1 minute audio clip).
- I will allow you to go no more than 2+30 Total.

Some Helpful Websites

Online Writing Lab at Purdue University <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>

- How to research
- MLA format for everything in your paper

Citation Machine

<http://citationmachine.net/>

- Helpful information on how to format works cited & internal citations