**Music Review (album)**

**DUE DATE: FRIDAY, MARCH 8**

**ASSIGNMENT:** Using the reviews from *Rolling Stone* magazine (or another popular music-review source) as examples, write an in-depth music review of a recent album—preferably a recording released in 20011- 2013.

**CHECKLIST:**

* *Select a recent album for review.* This CD or MP3 download may be from any musical genre. You may opt to review an album that you’ve owned for a short time, a new purchase, or a CD on borrow.
* *Listen to the album.* Multiple listenings will provide an opportunity for you to digest the entire album as a piece of work. Once you’re comfortable with the material, analyze the CD track by track.
* *Take detailed notes.* Considering all aspects of song, take down immediate reactions to the instrumentation, vocals and lyrics.
* *Write an effective lead.* Like the film review, your opinion of the work should be clear from the start. Be creative in your wording.
* *Write an in-depth review.* Using your notes, type an analysis of the entire album, both discussing the work as a whole and the merits and flaws of individual tracks.

**Tips for Writing a Music Review:**

* Clearly establish the musical *genre* of the artist.
* Discuss the various *types* of songs on the album.
* Analyze the meaning or effect of *lyrics* in songs; what is your interpretation of the words? Do the lyrics carry a specific tone or mood? Are there noticeable patterns?
* Mention the role of individual *instruments* within songs, including noteworthy solos.
* Use *figurative language* (i.e., similes, metaphors) to create artistic expressions for the music. Choose your words carefully as you craft a portrait of the artist.
* Draw comparisons to *similar artists* and/or songs.
* *Italicize the album’s title*; “place song titles in quotation marks.”
* Use the *language of music*. Discuss verse, chorus and bridge; lead guitar and rhythm guitar; the rhythm section of bass and drums; melody and dissonance; sampling and beats; rhyme, annunciation and delivery; hooks, medleys, duets, collaborations, over-production, acoustic, electric, themes, orchestration, harmonies, falsettos, tenors, baritones, interpolation, freestyle, jam sessions, live performances and atonal whining

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**REQUIREMENTS:**

* **Typed, 12 font, double-spaced, proper heading, numbered pages**
* **Creatively headlined**
* **300 – 500 words (1-2 pages)**

Music Reviews

Artist:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Song title:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**This song sounds like \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (song/band).**

**Simile/metaphor for song:**

**Genre:** hard rock metal rap/hip-hop country reggae

techno jazz easy-listening classical dance folk

singer/songwriter punk alternative other:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Type of song (i.e., ballad, anthem):**

**Notable instruments:** guitar (electric/acoustic) bass drums

keyboards/piano strings other:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**\_\_\_\_\_**

**Quotable lyrics:**

**Comments/reactions:**