

Woodstock Response Paper

Assignment Overview

- 1) Watch: *Woodstock: Three Days that Defined a Generation*
- 2) Listen: Jimi Hendrix, “Star Spangled Banner,” *Live at Woodstock*
- 3) Write your response paper!

Response Paper

How did Woodstock, and Jimi Hendrix’s performance of the “Star Spangled Banner,” represent the musical counterculture of the 1960s?

Assignment Requirements

- 1) Your paper must be 2 FULL pages in length. A “Title” and/or “Works Cited” page do not count toward the 2 page requirement. ***Do not exceed 2.5 pages total!***
- 2) Your paper should present a clear argument centered around your thesis statement, which should be the main point of your introductory paragraph.
- 3) Your paper should provide a historical context for the 1960s.
- 4) Your paper should provide a song analysis of Jimi Hendrix’s, “Star Spangled Banner.”
- 5) You MUST cite at least 1 assigned course reading.
- 6) You should have at least 3 citations:
 - a. The film, *Woodstock: Three Days that Defined a Generation*.
 - b. The song, Jimi Hendrix, “Star Spangled Banner,” *Live at Woodstock*.
 - c. 1 assigned reading from the course materials.
- 7) Your paper should be properly formatted—Titled, Double-spaced, Times New Roman (12 pt.) font, 1” margins, and numbered pages.
- 8) You must include in-text citations and a properly formatted “Works Cited” page at the end.

Citations

Make sure to include both in-text citations and a Works Cited page. Citations should follow MLA guidelines. Further instructions and examples can be found at the Purdue Online Writing Lab MLA Formatting and Style Guide Resource: (https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_formatting_and_style_guide/mla_formatting_and_style_guide.html)

Grading

Response papers should maintain an academic tone. This is not an informal writing, summary of the assigned media content, or an opinion paper about whether you “like/dislike” the music. Avoid using the first person “I” for this assignment.

The best way to structure your response paper is to center it around a strong thesis statement. Remember that you are trying to consider the musical event as an example of social history. Make an argument about how you think it fits within the historical context of the time and impacted society.

Grading for the response papers will follow a rubric determining a point value for separate assignment requirements. Please see the additional document outlining the grading rubric on Blackboard.

Plagiarism and Late Submissions

Plagiarism is strictly prohibited and will be reported as laid out on the syllabus. Failure to submit an essay for an originality check through Blackboard will result in no credit for the assignment. Late submissions will be automatically penalized, and will eventually receive no credit if the instructor closes submissions for this assignment before a paper is submitted.

Writing Prompts

Woodstock: The Hippies represent one of the most significant, music-based cultural revolutions in American history. What was the “Hippie” philosophy about? How did it respond to the 1960s? How did drug culture combine with music to inform the movement? What was the larger meaning of Woodstock? Were the Hippies successful, or were their Utopian dreams unattainable?

Hendrix: What do you hear in the music? What do you think the artist’s motivations are? How do you imagine the audience received the music? Does it relate to the time period in which it was released? How does it relate to historical context/social change of the time period? Does it have a strong momentary impact? Does it have a lasting legacy? How does Hendrix use this performance as a commentary of the American experience? How do you interpret and understand his message?

Remember that you do not have the space to consider every aspect or answer every question above. The prompts are meant to start your unique thought process. The best response papers will demonstrate your deep consideration of the time period, original insights and a focused argument. Good luck!