



Write a brief account of the class conversation about the topic, describing what you know at this point about some of its aspects:

Today, we discussed how and the extent to which we can enjoy and value music. The neurological responses we have to music relate to our emotions and decision making - how "the most advanced areas of the brain tie in to the most ancient." I was intrigued by the idea that when we pay for music, somehow enjoy it more - and this bears out in the brain scans mentioned in the article "Why your brain craves music." We discussed possible reasons why investing money in our music choices might influence our response to it. Yet, given these neurologically demonstrable responses, the incredible rise of music piracy seems to offer a different take on what constitutes enjoying music. By this, I mean - we download free, or reduced-price music in bulk, yet are less likely to listen to it, and thereby not enjoy it. Does collecting music you never hear demonstrate a level of music appreciation?

POTENTIAL AREA OF INVESTIGATION 1

In a few words, describe an area within the topic that you would like to know more about:

The notion of quality vs. quantity kept coming up for me in our reading and discussion. Downloading music for free, which is currently illegal, seems to be on the rise. Does the fact that it's illegal contribute to one's enjoyment of the "music?" Yet, the quality of the music we're consuming online is quite poor - adding another layer of consideration to how much we can actually enjoy free, unlimited, online music.

Explain why you are interested in this area of the topic:

I've both bought and downloaded music for free. I've also received music as a gift. I do think investment or price might have given me more of a sense of ownership of the music--like it was "my" music--what I liked to listen to. I'd like to get a better understanding of what that sense is all about.

Express your potential area of investigation as a question or problem:

Why does investing or paying for music increase the brain's chemical responses that indicate enjoyment?



| POTENTIAL AREA OF INVESTIGATION 2 | POTENTIAL AREA OF INVESTIGATION 3 | POTENTIAL AREA OF INVESTIGATION 4 |
|--|--|---|
| <p>In a few words, describe what you would like to know more about within the topic: The articles tend to discuss the negative economic and aesthetic affects of music piracy, Yet, I feel that my friends have a deep knowledge of current and historic music that not only reflects the amount of sharing we do, but also the quick access to information about each artist. We don't even have to listen to it - we can just talk about it.</p> | <p>In a few words, describe what you would like to know more about within the topic: We talked a lot about the history of music in class and I spent hours on that NPR site. When I think of the history of music, it seems like music has sort of stalled lately. Many of the songs I encounter sound very much the same. I'd like to explore how human taste in music has changed and if it can be clearly defined in a sort of formulaic music.</p> | <p>In a few words, describe what you would like to know more about within the topic: The article we read talked about the relationship between music and evolution. Some studies seem to suggest that listening to music has positive effects on the brain even though it doesn't seem to serve any beneficial purpose. Is that true? I'd like to know more about the connections between music an health. What studies around music have been done about recovery or wellness?</p> |
| <p>Explain why you are interested in this: My dad tells me about how he used to take CDs over to his friends' houses and listen to them together, share copies (unconcerned with the legality of the practice), and discuss the lyrics. While this sounds fun, I can share twenty albums with twenty friends - and discuss them - online, all together, in one night. FOR FREE!</p> | <p>Explain why you are interested in this: After listening to a bunch of songs on the NPR site, I realized just how SIMILAR most of the songs I usually hear are. There almost all the same length and even seem the same in structure and tone. I wonder about the construction of musical taste these days.</p> | <p>Explain why you are interested in this: Discussing this article made me think of visiting people in the hospital. It always seems so quiet. The only entertainment seems to be afternoon TV. I've always wondered if people would recover more quickly if they involved music in treatment.</p> |
| <p>Express your potential area of investigation as a question or problem: What are the effects of on-line music piracy on music and the music industry?</p> | <p>Express your potential area of investigation as a question or problem: Is there a certain musical format that structures current popular music? What is it and how did it develop?</p> | <p>Express your potential area of investigation as a question or problem: What is the relationship between music and health?</p> |