



Personal Narrative Assignment

The connection between life and music has been around since time began. What's your connection? This assignment invites you to tell *your story* (personal narrative), but tell it with music. Here are your instructions.

1. Paragraph One: Introduce yourself. This is an example intro from a high school junior who just got out of drug rehab. It's up to you what details you'd like to include.

Dear Listener,

The soundtrack before you represents as a whole a few exceptionally memorable events from my life. Although it should be fairly self-explanatory, there are a few things you should know that you would not find out from the songs. . . . Due to the influences of my mom, Aunt Cindy, and Uncle Tim, I have grown into a very loving, free-spirited young woman who is incredibly open-minded, honest, and loyal. Most of my days have been spent in my hometown of Kearney, Nebraska, but my summers, since about the age of eleven, have been spent in California with my aunt and uncle. There, I was given the freedom and trust to spread my wings and grow, and also the opportunity to learn from the many mistakes I ended up making.

2. Paragraph Two: Introduce your soundtrack. What led you to pick the songs you did? Do they reflect events? Your personality? Your past? Your future?

This soundtrack is being carefully constructed to reflect the flavor and ambience of my life. I am attempting to capture "me" in this soundtrack and explain a little about myself in the process. Completing this project is forcing me to take a much deeper look into who I am and who I wish to become. I want to be a responsible, productive member of society. Now I have the opportunity to not only be that upstanding citizen but also to turn my life around, attend college, obtain a career that I enjoy, and one day find a man that loves me enough to spend the rest of his life with me and raise a family. This project is helping me realize that not only am I still quite young but I also have to take this "life" thing as it's thrown at me and just live for today. It has taken nearly seventeen years to mold me into the person that I am today, and I cannot force myself into who I wish to be overnight.

3. Paragraphs or BULLETS Three through Seven: List at least FIVE significant songs, and relate them to music. You may use a bulleted list or paragraphs. Make sure to give the artist credit and use the actual song title in your paragraph. Here's one example.

When, in 2001, I became aware of a summer camp that was hiring staff, I jumped at the chance and was hired immediately. Every weekend, the staff would call and request "Fishin' in the Dark," by the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band, in honor of the dedication and hard work that we put in and for the fun we had in the process, which I am including as my third song. To this day, I cannot hear that song without feeling the thick, humid heat that envelops every inch of your body and remembering those summer nights where our only care in the world was who could make it to the lake before anyone else . . .

EXAMPLE

Aubrey Chaffin

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8th Period

Ms. Chaffin's Crazy Day Playlist

I found out my name means “elf princess,” but I’m definitely no princess. I’m much happier behind the scenes than on the stage, and I don’t know anything about elves. My favorite hobbies are creative: I love anything that will give me the opportunity to express myself. Painting, cooking, gardening, and making videos are just a few of the ways I spend my time. My family has always been really important to me, and I love animals and spending time outside.

This playlist is one I created for those crazy days I know everyone has. Sometimes, on bad days, classical, soothing music is best. Sometimes, however, it feels really good to listen to music that expresses exactly how I’m feeling at the moment: c-r-a-z-y. This playlist is a mix of both types. I hope listeners enjoy!

1. “I’ll fly Away” by Allison Krause

- ❖ I like this song because it’s a classic hymn, but Krause makes it fresh in a hometown, pure way. It makes me think about leaving tough situations.

2. “Beast in Me” by Martin Sexton

- ❖ This song makes me think about those crazy days and how sometimes, the days bring out a better me than the good days! Martin Sexton’s music always makes me think of California and the laid back, breezy, coastal lifestyle, and his bluesy style inspires me.

3. “Crazy Train” by Ozzy Osbourne

- ❖ What would a crazy day playlist be without this classic? Ozzy is crazy, but this song is amazing!

4. “Wide Open Spaces” by The Dixie Chicks

- ❖ When I listen to this country song, I think about a family road trip when I was a kid. We stopped in Montana, and I stood on the top of a hill and looked at the sky. They call Montana “big sky” country, and it really was! It looked like the sky would never end. Thinking about the smooth blue of a neverending sky relaxes me on crazy days.

5. “Concrete Walls” by Zee Avi

- ❖ I love Zee Avi’s voice! I also like her work on the ukulele. This song is about a concrete wall, which is a big progress stopper, but listening to Zee’s lyrics makes me think that I can bust through some concrete walls, too.