Discussion: Our survey of writing, through the strange lens of music, has allowed us to engage a rich collection of texts. Each text we have read has approached issues of written discourse uniquely. Every text we have engaged—whether a music video, an aural magazine, or a sonic memoir—has proven capable of building an argument.

For this fourth and final essay, you will create your own argument—replete with devices and rhetorical appeals—that identifies how a specific musical event affects visible and significant change. You will approach this issue by first researching arguments about an aspect of music that promises to solve and/or make worse a significant issue affecting your community, your nation, or your world. You will then outline your position and create an engaging presentation that articulates your argument and research to the class.

Finally, you will build a well written and developed argument of your own that calls for or incites change.

This may sound complicated and difficult, but I promise, it will be quite fun!

Prompt: How has a specific musician, band, or genre of music contributed significantly to a social, environmental, or scholarly issue, and how should an audience respond to such a movement?

Tips: The Annotated Bibliography, The Presentation, and Essay 4 are linked assignments designed to incorporate all aspects of your writing process and encourage you to experiment with academic and creative forms of writing. The more you experiment in the annotated bibliography and the creative “presentation,” the richer E4 will be: that and the easier E4 will be to write (see those prompts for more detail).

Also, The key to success is choosing an issue and/or a musical event that you care about. This means you could choose a band you disagree with, whose music affects an issue (that you care for) in a negative way. Your argument then will analyze the antisocial (or anti-environmental or anti-intellectual) message and effect propagated by this group and will call for action on behalf of an audience to counter this effect. Choose wisely.

Requirements: Your argumentative, research essay must rely on your understanding of how we have defined strong, effective writing this semester. Be creative, but be clear and concise. The essay must reach 2700 words and feature MLA format, citations and works cited.

Sources: You must include at least 7 credible sources found outside the curriculum of this course, 3 of these must be from experts or scholars related to your topic. You may begin researching with “wiki” sites, but note that Wikipedia and most .com sites are not considered credible or scholarly.

Banned Topics and Arguments: That’s right! You have limited academic freedom in this class. Your argument may not purposefully disenfranchise or assail the fundamental rights or beliefs of a definable group, and you may not rely on xenophobic appeals to persuade your audience.

Due dates: A workshop draft and a final draft of E4 are due on separate dates. Please see the course calendar to confirm these dates.

***Note: “Technical issues” is not an acceptable excuse for papers not turned in to Blackboard. If you have already missed one assignment and do not successfully submit the essay to Blackboard on time, you will receive a zero for this assignment.