

Carnegie Scholar Project: Transforming a General Education Course
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Transformation Theme: Content
Qualitative Data
Student Investigator Comments on Preferred Music

The following comments were gathered prior to these students being selected through a random process as Student Investigators. I was interested in finding out what kinds of music do my students listen to? These are their unedited responses.

Students had been learning about music as an expression of culture. They were asked the question:

“Although music is universally known to humankind, there is not a universal music. There are many, many different musics. What kind(s) of music do you listen to on a regular basis and ho/why did you develop such an appreciation for that kind of music? Is there a particular kind of music that you really don’t like, and why do you think you don’t like it?”

Student 1: I personally listen to hip hop and R&B. I like the beats that hip hop provides and the lyrics hit home for me. As for R&B, the slow beats are good for the mood and the words help me get in touch with my feelings. I dislike country a lot. It has no real beat to it and it talks about things that I have no relation to in my life.

Student 2: I listen to and like almost any kind of music but regularly listen to r&b and hip hop. I believe I the reason that I enjoy this type of music is because I grew up listening to it. Throughout junior high and high school I hung around people that listened to it and I developed a connection to it. I do believe, however, that as I am getting older my appreciation of music is changing. I don't enjoy heavy rap anymore and enjoy country music a little more. One thing that did not change and maybe never will is my dislike of opera and classical music. I find it just bores me.

Student 3: I listen to a variety of music; classical (when I want to just listen), country (when I’m either feeling sad or happy about a relationship) and easy listening(when I want to sing along). I prefer music that is calming. I don’t like the type of music that has no particular beat or melody; it tends to make me nervous and edgy.

Student 4: I use to listen so-called classical music Beethoven, Tchaikovsky, Rachmaninov. I also like to listen music of Russian bards as Vysotsky, Okudzhava, Dolin. Sometimes I enjoy Russian pop music. I think I prefer the above kinds of music because I adjusted to them during my youth hood. I do not like jazz because I do not understand it.

Student 5: I primarily listen to KLLC, 97.3, which consists of alternative/light newer rock. I like it for several reasons. It sounds pretty similar in style to what my parents listened to when I was growing up, it's just 15 years newer. Also, I am used to it. I think the longer people listen to things the more they like them. I also identify with the other people that listen to that type of music. The DJ's on the station seem like they are probably like me, especially the morning DJ's. I started listening because it felt like I "fit" in with the station, and the more I listened the more I liked it. I really don't like Rap. I don't like the way it sounds. To me it's kind of like nails on a chalkboard. It annoys me and reminds me of losers who don't know how to speak English properly. Also, most of the people I went to high school with that listened to Rap always got into trouble. I didn't identify with them at all.

Student 6: listen to alternative music, rock, and pop on a regular basis. I listen to popular Hawaiian, jazz, soul, blues, samba, salsa, and classical intermittently. I like the rock and pop because they are easy to dance and sing to. I developed the appreciation for the other types of music through various dance classes, participation in Carnival in San Francisco, and my mother making me listen to it. I developed the appreciation for classical in elementary school in music classes. I don't like rap because most of it is pretty ugly stuff. It doesn't really celebrate the beauty in anything. I could do without country and reggae also, but I am not vehemently opposed to them.

Student 7: I listen to classical music on the regular basis. I like mostly Mozart and Chaichovsky. I don't like rap music. They use too much bad words in rap-music.

Student 8: I listen to a wide variety of music, I like to listen to the radio, since you get a lot of variation. I have always liked classical music and listen to it on regular basis. My dad is an organist and choir leader so I grew up with classical music in my home. (However, 8AM piano sessions on Saturday's mornings was not my favorite). Beyond the classical music I also like contemporary music such as R&B, Soul and also the new wave of easy listening punk rock. The development of my liking of punk rock arose when I lived in Chamonix, France, and snowboarded for 5 months and in this particular group the punk rock have really established itself. There is one kind of music that I really don't like and that is country music. My theory is that I am grown up in Sweden, and came to

the US for 2 years ago, and in Sweden we do not have the country music sound in the music. I have not been exposed to it, so it might be that I am not, yet, used to the country sound.

Student 9: I mainly listen to rock and roll. I got hooked on it as a child probably because it was the dominant music of my generation, that being the sixties. I am also quite partial to folk, blues, R and B, and country if it has a blue grass feel to it, probably because rock and roll often borrows from these types of music. Occasionally I listen to classical music, mainly to please my wife. The only type of music that I don't like is rap, mostly because I can't understand the lyrics and all the songs seem to have the same beat. I also don't think it takes too much talent to jerk an album back and forth on a turntable. About the only good rapper I know would have to be Dr. Seuss.

Student 10: Regularly, I listen Chinese Popular Music. It is because I am Chinese. The words in the song I can understand. But in fact, I like the music which is European + Chinese style music. Because the melody always familiar for me, I don't like Rock and Roll or Rap, I always feel they are too noisy, shock my ear and I never understand Rap.

Student 11: When I listen to some music, it's important for me to pay attention "sound." Although there are all sorts of "sound," I pay attention the mood of sound. For example, if I'm tired, I want to listen to slow and clear music such as classical music. On the other hand, if I want to raise my feeling I want to listen to hot music such as "rockabilly" or "dance."

Student 12: Dance music and ballade. I usually listen to these two different types of music, and which music I want to listen to depends on my mood. When I have energy or a desire to do something, I feel like listening up-tempo music such as dance music. It increases my passion and makes me feel great. On the other hand, when I want to relax or be cool, I listen to slow-tempo music such as ballade and symphony. This kind of music makes me calm down and relax. I believe that music can make me happy or sad, energetic or calm.

I do not have any particular music that I dislike. However, if I have to pick one, I should say Japanese traditional music. We have many kinds of traditional music but one I do not like is called Enka. This is a particular form of Japanese songs that elderly people especially like to listen to. Enka is a low-tempo music and its lyrics are mostly about bitterness of life and of love between adults. Singers put tremolo into their songs. For me, Enka is too slow, and its tone makes me depressed.

Student 13: I like many types of music. Rap, country and rock. Most of my musical tastes were influenced by my friends when I was in sixth and seventh grade. From then on it was up to me to explore and experiment with more types of music. Some heavy metal songs don't appeal to me. I am not sure, why I don't like those types but I think it is because I never built up an interest.

Student 14: Among all the music that I have listened to, I like Japan pop music. It is because the Japanese songs are not just pop, but they are also made up of soft melody. As I am an Asian from Hong Kong, I always have chances to listen to Japanese pop music. Moreover, Japanese pronunciation is similar to that of Cantonese, which is somewhat easy for me to adapt to. However, I do not really like Chinese opera, as their tones are very annoying and noisy.

Student 15: I listen to a variety of music for example, Hip hop, R & B, alternative, a little of country music like Shania Twain. I like Hip Hop because you can dance with it. Especially after my last class is over, I usually just wanna burst my radio and listen to it. Makes me feel in a party mood because I have nothing to worry about so far. I like to listen to R & B in the morning. I love to sing in the morning. It is usually good for your voice. I can exercise my voice. I like listening to it especially driving down the road. It ease my mood when I hit the traffic. I only listen to country music when the song is kinda like the R & B music style. I personally don't like the hard Rock...makes my head ached. Beside I cannot understand what they are singing about anyways. I cannot relate to the songs either. Some of the songs I really hate is when they talk about death and stuff. What I don't like about a certain song is when they used profanity words. It makes the song really dirty and trashy.