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Greg Christensen

Essay 3 Final

Changes in Music

For the past thirty years, the music industry has been constantly changing. The lyrics went from romance to rated R language. The tempo went from easy listening to hip-hop. The music videos used to be meaningful, and they used to have good storylines. Today's music videos have become very disruptive and grotesque.

Around the 1980s, artists usually sing about romanticism. For example, The Carpenters sing, "On the day that you were born the angels got together and decided to create a dream come true. So they sprinkled moon dust in your hair of gold and starlight in your eyes of blue" from one of their hit songs, "Close to You." These type of artists sing very gracefully with their words. The message that they put in their music is meaningful and understanding. As a listener, he or she can easily feel the song so soothing, and he or she can easily relate to the music. On the contrary, song lyrics today change dramatically. They are usually about money, sex, and sexy men and women. Sometimes it is hard to understand what the singer is trying to sing, and sometimes there is no definite message that the singer is trying to give the listeners. Rap artists use profanity, and it would be labeled "Parental Advisory" on their CDs. Now, not only rap artists use profanity, but even rhythm and blues artists are using profanity in their music, and the CDs are not labeled "Parental Advisory" anymore. For instance, Pitbull (a reggae artist) sings, "I wanna strap you, shake you, break you. Make you lose your mind, lose control and lose it all" in his song, "Midnight." It seems as if today's artists have forgotten the real meaning of love and relationships. It should not only be about the

looks or getting physical contact with another person. It is a bit disrespectful hearing these kinds of music, and it can affect the actions of other people.

A lot of the songs from the 1980s to the 1990s have simple tempos that are easy to listen to. They are very relaxing, and even the upbeat tempo types of songs are soothing. As an illustration, Sade's, a Nigerian-British singer, songs are usually slow, and she elongates her words sometimes for listeners to feel the music more. There are still artists who are very relaxing to listen to. For example, Alicia Keys, a rhythm and blues artist, sings while she plays the piano. The piano helps her music sound more soothing, and she also elongates her words while she sings. Her recent album, *The Element of Freedom*, is mostly filled with slow songs and is debuted at number two on the Billboard 200. Surprisingly Alicia Keys stuck to her style and the same genre when she became the best-selling new artist in 2001, yet her fans grew since then.

Music videos in the 1990s usually have storylines. For instance, Michael Jackson, an American pop singer, is the first one who made music videos about ten minutes long and makes them into a story. Music videos then have more flavor, and the storylines give the songs' meanings more visual. The viewers can understand the message of the song better. For instance, one of Michael Jackson's hit songs "Thriller" is about being scared of monsters and what not. The music video had many zombies chasing after a girl, and she was very much frightened. This video is viewed more like a movie than just a regular music video. On the other hand, music videos today usually have females wearing revealing clothes and dancing seductively. A lot of the videos have money thrown everywhere and people dancing in clubs. For example, Lady Gaga's, a female artist who recently became a famous in 2008, music video, "Telephone," is band to show on MTV because of its revealing body parts and inappropriate activity; although,

it is not band from Youtube, and Youtube is more public than television because anyone can look up all sorts of music videos on this website. There are music videos that have nothing to do with the songs themselves. This same song “Telephone” is about dancing in clubs and having fun, but its music video was about two women killing people in a diner. The music video has a storyline; however, it did not relate to having fun dancing and partying.

Artists today have forgotten that they have to set a good example to the kids. There are elementary students, junior high students, and high school students copying what they see in music videos. Girls are wearing really short skirts or shorts, and boys are wearing clothes five times bigger than their actual size. The only singers who are giving good examples for the kids are singers from the Disney Channel or Nickelodeon. They advertise themselves by helping the environment, recycling, saving the ocean, or saving electricity. The only artist who sticks to his style and at the same time saving the world, is Michael Jackson. His old songs are still fresh, and his music videos are always rated PG. He also donates money to charity to save children and to save nature.

Music from the 1980s and 1990s are more for adults to listen to, and it is understandable that artists have to change their styles in order to keep up with the upcoming years. If only today’s music artists could just tone down their use of language, and female artists can be less revealing. In that case, they do not influence teenagers who look at them as role models. People still listen to old music to remember their childhood, and old music brings good memories.