**In-Class Essay, February 23, 2017**

**Critical Music Review (75 Points)**

Your second critical review piece will be on music. Rather than typing this response, you will be writing this in class on Thursday, February 23rd.

You are to critically review either a song or an entire album of your choosing.

Couple things to keep in mind as you decide on a song/album to review…

* **The important information should come up front – is the song/album good or would it make your audience wish they had hearing aids to turn off? A good music review makes the reviewer’s opinion absolutely clear.**
* **Do not quote more than a few choice lyrics and do not analyze every song in detail. Make your points with one or two good examples. Some potential points to talk about:**

1. Lyrics – Meaningful? Inane? Is there a theme? Important repeated words? A gorilla reference in every tune?
2. Quality of performance – does the guitarist sound more like Jimi Hendrix or your three-year-old sister?
3. Production – does the production enhance the song or detract? Are there specific instruments that work well or should be tossed out?
4. Vocals – Nice harmonies? Does the artist or band have a solid voice or needs to return to the shower to sing?

* **Compare the artist’s current work with past efforts (if possible), and if you choose, compare the work to other artists in the same genre.**
* **Providing background information on the performer you are reviewing may be important. Electric Glue may be your favorite band, but that doesn’t mean anyone else has heard of them. Background info, however, must not become the focus of the story.**

The reader, after all, is the target of your article and must be kept in mind at all times.

On the back of this sheet is a selection of terms that may be relevant to the musical qualities you want to describe. Feel free to use any or none of them. Have fun! Convince us to like a song… or hate it!

**Your critical review should be between 200-300 words max.**