**CRITICAL LISTENING ASSIGNMENT**

The following outcomes will be met upon successful completion of this assignment.

* I can identify the musical elements in a piece of music (tempo, dynamics, form, etc.)
* I can compare and contrast musical elements in and between pieces.
* I can explain how musical elements work together to create musical expressiveness
* I can use proper music vocabulary when talking about music I study and listen to
* I can demonstrate an understanding of the elements of music.

**TASK**

You will do a critical analysis of two songs, one original, and one cover of the same song, of your choosing, by comparing and contrasting the “**music elements**” of each song.

**PROCESS**

Use the attached table to:

* Carefully listen to the original song and make note of each “element of music”
* Follow the same practice for the cover version of the same song.
* Next, document how the two pieces are alike and different.
* In a concluding paragraph make note of your
* likes, dislikes, and preferences for each version,
* which version you prefer and WHY
* be certain to give specific reasons and examples to explain your choice.

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| **ELEMENT** | **SONG TITLE, ARTIST, YEAR** | **SONG TITLE, ARTIST, YEAR** |
| ***DYNAMICS(VOLUME)***  **Discuss in detail.**  Indicate if and when the volume changes.  Are the changes sudden or gradual?  ***TEMPO (SPEED)***  Describe the tempo of the song  Are there any changes in tempo?  ***MOOD***  Discuss the mood or feeling of the song.  How does the composer/artist effectively portray this mood?  ***INSTRUMENTS***  What instruments are used?  Thoroughly discuss the use of instruments ( when and how they are used)  What effect do these instrument choices have on the mood?  ***FORM***  How is the song organized? Are there verses and a chorus, a bridge? Is repetition important in the song?  ***TEXT (LYRICS)***  Describe the meaning of the song. |  |  |

***CONCLUSION***

Thoroughly discuss your likes and dislikes for each version, as well as which version you prefer and WHY. Be certain to give ACCURATE DETAILS and examples to explain your choice.