Punk Rock History

Topic and Thesis Statement

This is the history of punk rock, starting in the mid to late sixties and continuing on until today.

Introduction

Rock and roll music has always been on the rebellious side of music, but as far as rebellion goes, punk takes the cake. Punk was a name given to the bands of an era, where personality and attitude outweighed musical ability. What started in the mid sixties with bands like MC5, Velvet Underground, and Iggy and the Stooges, laid the groundwork for what we now call “pre punk”. By the early seventies these bands and others like The New York Dolls and Television helped shape the style behind punk. It wasn’t until the mid seventies, that what we now call punk came about. This is when an explosion of talented and memorable bands such as the Ramones, Johnny Thunders and the Heartbreakers, Richard Hell and the Voidoids, Deadboys, Sex Pistols, The Clash, Misfits, or Dead Kennedys came about, to put a twist on rock. Until this time, the music was very similar but the I don’t give a F*** attitude segregated the sub-genre. Now punk rockers had their own attitude and musical force to stand behind. Although punk is considered more than just a form of music, Patti Smith is considered one of the originators in the punk scene, proving that attitude was the main driving point behind the movement.

Topic Analysis

Keywords

Punk – pre punk, post punk, new wave, no wave, grunge, hardcore, and ska

Rock – alternative, metal, classic, indie, and pop

History – movement, story, past, beginning, and steps

Proquest Topics

Punk rock
Punk rock music
Rock music and Punk rock
LC Subject Headings

Punk rock music
Punk rock music – History and criticism
Punk culture – History

Web Sources


I found this site using a google search of punk + movement. This is a quality source for my bibliography but on the down side, it is lacking a lot of information. Todd Leopold does a good job summarizing an entire movement into a short two page article. This will make a good secondary source, it backs up a lot of information I have acquired elsewhere.

Periodical Articles


Using the Academic Search Premier database I was able to find this great article. I used an academic journal search with the keywords punk and history. This would make for a great primary source. Author Pete Lentini has done a lot of investigating, using many different (very well cited) sources. It is full of easy to read and locate facts.


Using a full text, scholarly journal, and citation and abstract search with the topic being punk, I was able to find this article. Author Alexander Reed does a good job of giving useful information in this short article. However no sources are listed, thus making this a weaker source with good information.
Books


I found this book in UW’s library catalog using the keyword search terms Punk and History. This is a perfect resource for my bibliography. Authors Legs McNeil and Gillian McCain have done all the necessary research and provide all the history that I will need to write a great report. Not only were the authors in the punk scene when the punk scene didn’t have a name but they have personally interviewed every band, groupie, and industry person that their book talks about. Legs McNeil is also co-founder of Punk Magazine. This book will be my main source; my other online sources and other books will back the book *Please Kill Me* up.

Extra Credit

**Interview with Iggy Pop**


Self-Evaluation

Prior to this class I used Yahoo to search for everything. With the information I have obtained, I will be able to find quality information that I can depend on for future classes. At the moment my goals are to take a few courses before fall quarter when I plan to join the Watch Technology program. I’m sure that the research process I have learned throughout this class will help me overcome any difficulties finding proper information. Citing sources is a completely different matter, just joking.