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Musc.222-01

**Quiz 8**

1. *Describe the cultural role of the female artist in modern music. Who would be a good “model” for a modern female artist in your view and why? Compare your example to another female artist from the course.*

I believe that women in the music industry are held to higher standard than the male musicians are. Female artists are criticized or mocked if their songs are racy or if their songs are all about men or if they wear revealing clothing on stage. Men are not criticized for any of these things in the same regard. A current female artist that I think would be a good model of this is Taylor Swift. Taylor Swift began recording music when she was 14 years old and she instantly a success. She writes her own songs and the majority of her music is based off of experiences in her love life. She has often been ridiculed and attacked because of her many relationships and the fact that her songs are about them. Within the last two years she has also constantly been criticized because she switched from country music to pop music and her clothing became more revealing in the process. She is one of the best examples of a good and successful female artist who is criticized and downgraded due to her gender.

1. *Discuss the difference between sharing music and piracy. At what point does it become immoral to obtain an artist’s music without paying for it? Discuss modern methods of music dissemination and their role in piracy.*

Sharing music is when two people recommend music to each other, loan someone a CD, or play songs for others. Piracy is when someone downloads music illegally off of the internet without paying for it through conventional sites. However, there is a grey area in between these two concepts. For example, if I loan my friend a CD and they download my CD onto their laptop before giving it back, they got the music for free. In my opinion, this is not piracy. It isn’t exactly sharing music either, but I see it as finding a way to obtain the music that is still benefiting the artist. I still originally bought the CD so the artist did benefit from the process at least some. The internet is the biggest modern technology that has added to the act of piracy. It is very easy to find somewhere on the internet to download a song without paying and this is probably why the act of piracy has increased so much recently.

1. *Name a modern artist whose work effectively addresses the issue of income inequality and class struggle. Are they explicit about these issues or not? If not, what musical or lyrical devices suggest the issues?*

A modern, but not current, group who rapped about income inequality and class struggle was NWA. This was a rap group formed by a group of poorer African Americans in the 80’s. Two of their best songs that talk about class struggle and race are “Straight Outta Compton” and “F\*ck Tha Police”. Both of these song are very explicit about the issue of race and how they are seen as a lower class. It is best demonstrated through the lyrics of the songs. This rap group is no longer still together, but two of the members are still very prominent. One of them is Dr.Dre. He went on from the group to produce for other artists and occasionally record. He is very influential because many of his artists like Eminem and Tupac continued to rap about race and class struggles. NWA and Dr.Dre’s other artists all used their music to help make issues better known in America.