

Imagine: John Lennon's Legacy

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Group Performance
Process Paper: 489 Words

How We Chose Our Topic:

I've always grown up with a love of music, especially singing. I knew I wanted to incorporate it into my project because I admire how music can influence people everywhere. My partner, Emily Guerrero's, life goal is to positively change the world in some way, and she greatly admires activists. When individually consulting with history experts at the Willennar Genealogy Center, we were both recommended to create a project about John Lennon as it would not only have a great deal of triumph and tragedy, but also have personal relevance to us.

How We Conducted Our Research:

We started by creating a general outline of John Lennon's life by reading websites recommended to us by our Media Center Specialist. We then went to the Allen County Public Library, to meet with an expert on our topic. We also found a variety of newspapers and other primary sources while we were there, that illustrated what the day John Lennon died was really like. Afterward, we read a many books about John Lennon's life and legacy. This allowed us to gather how much of influential John Lennon was.

How And Why We Created A Performance:

We knew John Lennon could not be summarized merely with words of a paper. John Lennon's story was larger than life, and we thought the only way to honor that was through a performance. This also allowed us to incorporate different perspectives. To start, we put our research into one of five categories: Background (What happened long before the event?), Spark (What led up to the event?), Heart (What happened during the event?), Short-Term Impact (What happened right after the event?), and Long-Term Impact (What happened long after the event?). With all of this information in mind, we started to write our script. We wanted to create a script that was not only dramatic and engaging, but historically accurate as well; which took many drafts to achieve. Then, we created a backdrop, gathered props, and costumes to ensure that our performance transported audience members to 1980s New York.

Once we memorized the script, we truly connected with the key players of the event, and were able to tell the story through their eyes.

Why Does Our Topic Fit the Theme:

The murder of John Lennon fits the theme, “triumph and tragedy” in a variety of ways. The tragedy of this event is quite obviously the death of John Lennon. John Lennon was very influential on the music industry and the activism world. To have his life cut short left many wondering what else could he have accomplished if only he had time? This event was a triumph for Mark Chapman, the murderer of Lennon, because he got what he wanted; he succeeded in killing John Lennon and is remembered for it. However, the other triumph, and the arguably more important one, is that people banded together to help John Lennon live on.