Writing Your Music Review

Assignment: The year is 1970. You and your partner are a team of music journalists who have been asked to review a new band's performance. The new band is called Black Sabbath, and the performance is of the song "War Pigs." Your review will be based on the video you have just seen, and information from the four stations you have visited. You may also wish to incorporate some of the lyrics to the song.

Your review should include three paragraphs, as outlined below, and should contain specific references to information and ideas from the lesson.

Paragraph 1: Musical influences

- What musical influences does "War Pigs" draw from? Where do you see these specific influences in the song?
- What about the performance is similar to earlier musical movements, such as Hard Rock and Blues? What is different?
- What are some of the specific characteristics of the music? (You should draw upon the musical definitions provided at Station 1.) How would you describe the sound?

Paragraph 2: Social/Historical Influences

- What is this song about? How do you think the singer feels about the state of the world? What specific words in the song make the strongest impression?
- How might the band's experiences growing up in Birmingham have influenced the song?
- How might growing up in a factory town have influenced the music?
- How might specific world events from the late 1960s have influenced the song?

Paragraph 3: Your Opinion

- What is your reaction to the music? Does it resonate with you? Why or why not?
- Does the music successfully convey the ideas it is trying to convey? Why or why not?
- Who might be most attracted to this music, and why?
- If you had to create a label for this music, what would it be? Heavy Metal, or something else?
- What is this music doing that earlier musical forms, particularly Hard Rock, wasn't doing?