Handout 2 - Questions for Stations

Station 1: Health and Poverty

1. How did the social position of the Wray family affect their health? Provide some examples of the ways the health issues confronted by the Wrays were more due to circumstance than to genetics.

2. How did the Wrays respond to their bad health conditions? Would you say they responded in positive or negative ways?

3. In what ways did Link Wray’s health troubles contribute to the sound he created in “Rumble”?
Station 2: Racism and Segregation

1. How does Wray see himself similar to Elvis Presley? In what ways does he see himself as different?

2. How does Wray see himself having shared experiences with whites? What experiences does he share with blacks? Drawing from the quotes, would you say he has more of a connection with one group over the other?

3. Do you think if Wray lived in white neighborhoods, he would have the same access to the stranger that tuned his guitar and the circus musician Hambone? Why or why not?

4. How might have Wray’s experience as a Shawnee in the American South contribute to his musical style?
Station 3: Faith and Family

1. How would you describe Link Wray’s family life?

2. How might have his mother’s position as a preacher influenced Wray’s musical career?

3. Would you say Wray had a musical childhood? In what ways?

4. In what ways did Wray’s close relationship with his brothers help his musical career?