Musical Alter Ego Biography & Album Design

Day 1: Mingering Mike
genre
biography

- bio
- graph
VOCABULARY

- album
- alter ego
- biography
- cover song
- genre
- merge
Who is Mingering Mike?
Mingering Mike receiving recognition from the Washington, D.C. legislative council
BIOGRAPHY GROUP ACTIVITY

1. Each group reads a different biography in the packet.

2. After reading the biography, fill out the graphic organizer for each paragraph (Don’t forget the back side!).

3. Groups may work together and discuss answers for the graphic organizer, but everyone must fill out and turn in their own completed graphic organizer after the activity.

Michael Jackson  Taylor Swift  Beyonce  Bologna Bill & The Spicy Mustards
PARAGRAPH 1: INTRODUCTION

Who is this person?

How did they get into music?

Person’s name________________________________
What they do___________________________________
Where they were born__________________________
When they were born___________________________
Family Background_____________________________
Education______________________________________
Early interests and important experiences__________________________

Who is this person?
PARAGRAPH 2: The Story of Their Music

Did anyone help them get their career started?

How did he/she get their career started____________________________________
________________________________________
________________________________________

Did anyone help them along the way?____________________________________

How long has the career been?________________________________________

How many tours/shows/albums/etc?____________________________________
________________________________________

Professional success or awards?____________________________________
________________________________________
________________________________________
________________________________________

How has their music/art changed over the course of their career?

Some details about his or her professional career...
Summary of the musician and his or her career_____________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________

Who is the main audience? Who enjoys this music?________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________

Why do listeners enjoy this music?______________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________

What is the musician up to now? What is this current album called and what is it like?
___________________________________________________________________________
ALTER EGO BIOGRAPHY ASSIGNMENT

• Create a musical alter ego
• Write a 3-paragraph biography of your musical alter ego
• Design an album for your alter ego!

This writing assignment has 3 stages. Each stage must be approved by the teacher before moving onto the next stage:

1. Graphic organizer
2. Rough draft
3. Final draft
Musical Alter Ego Biography & Album Design

Day 2: Using 3 elements of Design to Create the Album
3 ELEMENTS OF ALBUM DESIGN

- Composition
- Text
- Imagery
Composition: The arrangement of things in an enclosed space
The Rule of Thirds

- The basic principle behind the rule is to imagine your image or page divided into thirds horizontally and vertically.
- 9 sections
- 4 focal points
41% of users focus here first, longest

20%

25%

14%
TEXT: the words

Text can be different colors and styles too!
The imagery is the part that is made up of pictures, shapes, drawings, photographs ... imagery can be whatever you want it to be!

The most successful imagery in design has something interesting and attention-grabbing about it. Many of the most successful designs use very simple imagery.

The next few slides show some different examples of imagery used in album design. Also ... notice how the text is used in the design.
FELINE GROOVY
24 Purrfect tracks for kool kats
RED
TAYLOR SWIFT
SHOUT!
THE ISLEY BROTHERS
Musical Alter Ego Biography & Album Design

Day 3: Using introductory sentences, transitions, and commas in your writing
INTRODUCTORY SENTENCE:

• Should introduce the main idea of the paragraph

• Introductory sentences let the reader know what kind of information is coming up in the paragraph
From the very beginning, Mike loved listening to the popular music of his time and he fantasized about a music career of his own. However, he was shy and kept to himself. When he was 15 he was mugged while walking through his neighborhood. This experience caused him to fear going out more than he needed to. The only people Mike shared his musical dream with were his cousins, who sometimes played homemade instruments in recordings they would all make at home together. Mike didn’t feel comfortable with the idea of performing in front of audiences, but he still needed to express himself. Then, in the late 1960’s he suddenly had a brand new idea. Mike didn’t have to give up his whole dream. He realized that he could invent an imaginary career as big and important as those of his musical heroes like James Brown or Diana Ross. All he had to do was create his own pretend hit records out of cardboard, paper, pencils, and paint. First, he needed to choose a name. Mike invented the word “mingering” while looking at a street sign in his neighborhood that said Merging Traffic. He liked the way this new word sounded. Finally, he was ready to get to work. He made around 150 different cardboard records in just a few years.
Mingering Mike was truly an original artist with interesting ideas – but hardly anyone had ever seen his art. Luckily, that was about to change. His records were about to find an audience of fans. In 2004, a record collector found several of Mike’s fake records mixed in with bins of real ones at a flea market. The collector bought them, brought them home, and put pictures of them on the internet. He wanted to find out who Mingering Mike was. Eventually, he found him. The collector told Mike he wanted to help introduce his art to more people who would enjoy it. Mike was unsure at first because he didn’t want too much attention, but he agreed. Soon, galleries and museums were very interested in the records. Art lovers and music lovers loved Mingering Mike’s unique imagination. Mike no longer makes new records, but some of them are now on permanent display at the Smithsonian Museum of American Art. He is still shy and prefers to live a quiet life, so he doesn’t like to be photographed. He even wears costumes to the few public appearances he has made. One time, Mike even dressed like Spider-Man to hide his true identity! However, he is very proud of his “babies”, which is what he calls his records. These days, he still lives a quiet life in Washington, D.C. Finally, Mingering Mike has found an appreciative audience today for a dream he worked so hard to make real many years ago.
First of all, they are both grayish brown. Secondly, hippos and tortoises are also both herbivores. They may not be the same size, but both animals are larger than an ant. Additionally, both animals have wide, flat feet. It can be surprising how many things different animals have in common.
Transition words and phrases:

What are they?
Examples of Transition Words and Phrases

First,
Second,
Then,
Next,
Finally,

By the age of ______,
After __________,
Following ________,
When_______ was only a little boy,

... there are also other examples in the biography handout.
Why do we use transitions?

Hippos and tortoises are similar in some ways. **First of all**, they are both grayish brown. **Secondly**, hippos and tortoises are also both herbivores. They may not be the same size, but both animals are larger than an ant. **Additionally**, both animals have wide, flat feet. It can be surprising how many things different animals have in common.
Transitions:

• They provide tone and pauses, like speech
• A formal way to organize ideas and sequences so they flow better
• They help readers make sense of information better
Introductory sentences and transition words and phrases are what good writers use to make their writing more organized and easier to read.