Vietnam Song Assignment

Purpose: The Vietnam War had a profoundly deep effect on the psyche of the United States. The purpose of this assignment is to investigate one aspect of Vietnam in American life: Music. Musicians voiced their displeasure, or approval, of the state of affairs in Vietnam through their songs, and the American people shaped their opinions with the addition of these popular culture pieces.

Task: For this assignment, you are tasked with finding and analyzing one song from the Vietnam Era that either protests or supports the war.

A list of potential songs to pick includes:

- '2+2 = ?' by Bob Seger (this may be difficult to find)
- 'All Along the Watchtower' by Bob Dylan (also a version by Jimi Hendrix)
- 'American Woman' by The Guess Who
- 'Ballad of the Green Berets' by Staff Sergeant Barry Sadler
- 'Eve of Destruction' by Barry McGuire (multiple other versions)
- 'For What Its Worth (Stop, What's that Sound?') by Buffalo Springfield
- 'Fortunate Son' by Creedence Clearwater Revival
- 'Gimme Shelter' by The Rolling Stones
- 'Ohio' by Crosby, Stills, Nash, and Young
- 'Okie from Muskogee' by Merle Haggard
- 'One Tin Soldier' by Original Caste (the version by Coven may be easier to find)
- 'Purple Haze' by Jimi Hendrix
- 'Question' by The Moody Blues
- 'Sky Pilot' by The Animals
- 'The Unknown Soldier' by The Doors
- 'Waist Deep in the Big Muddy' by Pete Seeger
- 'War' by Edwin Starr

You do not need to choose one of these songs, and are encouraged to find another anti-war or pro-war song from the Vietnam Era (1965-1975). If you are unsure about a song choice, clear it with Mr. Seelhoff before moving forward.

Once you have chosen a song to focus on, there are three items you must complete:

1-Transcribe Lyrics: The lyrics to the song will be your main evidence in supporting your analysis. Therefore, you must get a written version of the lyrics to the song. Though you may write these down yourself from listening to the song, locating a copy of the lyrics elsewhere is advised.

2-Write your Experiences with the song: After choosing to a song, listen to it three or four times without the written lyrics in front of you. After doing this, write a 1 paragraph (5+ sentences) explanation of what ideas and emotions the song evokes for you. This paragraph should address questions such as “How does this song make you feel” or “What do you like/dislike about the song”.

3-Analyze the Song: Once you have completed your experiences paragraph, write a 3 paragraph (5+ sentences each) analysis of your song. The first paragraph should focus on establishing if the song is pro-war or anti-war and the second and third paragraphs should focus on using lyrics and music to support the first paragraph’s claim of the song as anti-war or pro-war.

The entire analysis should be roughly 1 to 2 pages typed, double-spaced, size 12 Times New Roman font.

Due Date:________________________________________
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Points Possible</th>
<th>Point Breakdown</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Song Choice</td>
<td>5</td>
<td><strong>Relevancy</strong>-&gt;5 pts– Song is from the Vietnam Era (or cleared with Mr. Seelhoff) and is relevant to studying the war and protest movement.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Experience Paragraph</td>
<td>10</td>
<td><strong>Structure</strong>-&gt;5 pts- Paragraph is 5+ sentences, uses proper grammar and spelling, and is properly formatted (12 pt. font, double-spaced, Times New Roman)</td>
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<td><strong>Content</strong>-&gt;5 pts- Paragraph addresses student's feelings and thoughts about the song.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Song Analysis</td>
<td>25</td>
<td><strong>Structure</strong>-&gt;5 pts- Paragraphs are 5+ sentences, use proper grammar and spelling, and are properly formatted (12 pt. font, double-spaced, Times New Roman)</td>
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<td><strong>Content ¶ 1</strong>-&gt;10 pts- Paragraph uses song lyrics and music to support claim of the song as a pro-war or anti-war song. Analysis makes connections to historical events or historical feelings of the Vietnam Era.</td>
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<td><strong>Content ¶ 2</strong>-&gt;10 pts- Paragraph uses song lyrics and music to support claim of the song as a pro-war or anti-war song. Analysis makes connections to historical events or historical feelings of the Vietnam Era.</td>
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Total Points: _____/40