

# WRITING ASSIGNMENT

## Record Review

You are going to write a record review of an album that is deemed significant in Rock Music.

A list of groups/artists can be accessed by clicking on link below [http://www.rollingstone.com/news/story/5938174/the\\_rs\\_500\\_greatest\\_albums\\_of\\_all\\_time](http://www.rollingstone.com/news/story/5938174/the_rs_500_greatest_albums_of_all_time)

### **Criteria:**

#### **Title Page**

Name, word count, course number, section number, etc.

### **Introduction:**

Write a biography of the group you're critiquing. This should include the year the group/artist began recording, a list of and year of recordings, billboard chart positions, and any awards, Grammys, etc. [www.allmusic.com](http://www.allmusic.com) is a great source for biographical information.

### **Section 1**

You will need to include all of the specifics of the recording, record label, producer(s), year, and dates of recording.

Listen to the album several times as if you were a record critic and write an overview of the album, i.e. style of music, mood, highlights, lowlights, etc.

Here are some things to consider: Is there a unifying theme throughout the album? Are there contrasting themes? If so, what are they? Is there enough variety musically in your opinion? What is it about this album in particular that makes it stand out?

### **Section 2**

Pick **four** songs and discuss them in more detail.

Discuss your likes and dislikes as we have in relation to the journal entries in class but you will need to go into more detail.

Discuss any other elements you find compelling, i.e., imagery from the lyrics or lack thereof, the use of and/or role of instrumentation, tempos, solos, vocals, etc.

### **Section 3**

Summarize your experience.

Would you recommend this album to other listeners? Why or why not?

Include any other points you would like to make to support your recommendation.

**Papers must be typed, 5 pages minimum. Grading on content. Deductions for errors.  
Due the last class before the final.**

# The Beatles



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Word Count: 2,394

History of Rock Music

MUS 115

## Introduction: A Brief Biography of The Beatles

The Beatles are one of the most powerful, famous, and influential bands in Rock and Roll history. Through their ten years of existence and albums, they stretched pop music to its boundaries, producing some of the best music from their generation. As musicians, the Beatles proved that rock & roll could embrace a limitless variety of harmonies, structures, and sounds. As a unit the Beatles were a musically synergistic combination: Paul McCartney's melodic bass lines, Ringo Starr's drumming, George Harrison's rockabilly-style guitar leads, John Lennon's assertive rhythm guitar and their four passionate voices. One of the first rock groups to write most of its own material, the Beatles inaugurated the era of self-contained bands and forever centralized pop. They defined '60s style: smart, idealistic, playful, bold, eclectic. Their music, from the not so simple love songs they started with to their later perfectionist studio extravaganzas, set new standards for both commercial and artistic success in pop. The Beatles took over the charts in the United Kingdom and in the United States. Their music captures attention from all audiences, which helped make them the group that they became.

### The Beatles Hits - U.S. Billboard Chart Positions

Debut Date	Title		Position
August 3, 1963	From Me To You		116
January 18, 1964	I Want To Hold Your Hand		1
January 25, 1964	She Loves You		1
February 1, 1964	Please Please Me		3
February 1, 1964	I Saw Her Standing There		14
February 8, 1964	My Bonnie		26
February 22, 1964	From Me To You		41
March 14, 1964	Twist And Shout		2
March 14, 1964	Roll Over Beethoven		68
March 28, 1964	Can't Buy Me Love		1
March 28, 1964	All My Loving		45
March 28, 1964	Do You Want To Know A Secret		2
March 28, 1964	You Can't Do That		48
April 4, 1964	Thank You Girl		35
April 11, 1964	There's A Place		74
April 11, 1964	Love Me Do* (Ringo on drums)		67
April 11, 1964	Why		88
May 2, 1964	Love Me Do* (Andy White on drums)		1
May 9, 1964	P.S. I Love You		10
May 30, 1964	Sie Liebt Dich		97
June 6, 1964	Four By The Beatles		92
July 18, 1964	A Hard Day's Night		1
July 18, 1964	Ain't She Sweet		19
July 18, 1964	I Should Have Known Better		53
July 25, 1964	And I Love Her		12

July 25, 1964	I'm Happy Just To Dance With You		95
July 25, 1964	I'll Cry Instead		25
August 1, 1964	If I Fell		53
September 5, 1964	Matchbox		17
September 5, 1964	Slow Down		25
December 5, 1964	I Feel Fine		1
December 5, 1964	She's A Woman		4
February 20, 1965	Eight Days A Week		1
February 20, 1965	I Don't Want To Spoil The Party		39
February 27, 1965	4 - By The Beatles		68
April 24, 1965	Ticket To Ride		1
April 24, 1965	Yes It Is		46
July 31, 1965	Help!		1
August 7, 1965	I'm Down		101
September 18, 1965	Yesterday		1
September 18, 1965	Act Naturally		47
October 23, 1965	Boys		102
December 11, 1965	We Can Work It Out		1
December 11, 1965	Day Tripper		5
March 5, 1966	Nowhere Man		3
March 5, 1966	What Goes On		81
June 11, 1966	Paperback Writer		1
June 11, 1966	Rain		23
August 20, 1966	Yellow Submarine		2
August 20, 1966	Eleanor Rigby		11
February 18, 1967	Penny Lane		1
February 18, 1967	Strawberry Fields Forever		8
July 22, 1967	All You Need Is Love		1
July 22, 1967	Baby You're A Rich Man		34
December 2, 1967	Hello Goodbye		1
December 2, 1967	I Am The Walrus		56

March 23, 1968	Lady Madonna			4
March 23, 1968	The Inner Light			96
September 14, 1968	Hey Jude			1
September 14, 1968	Revolution			12
May 10, 1969	Get Back			1
May 10, 1969	Don't Let Me Down			35
June 14, 1969	The Ballad Of John And Yoko			8
October 18, 1969	Something			1
October 18, 1969	Come Together			1
March 21, 1970	Let It Be			1
May 23, 1970	The Long And Winding Road / For You Blue			1
June 12, 1976	Got To Get You Into My Life			7
November 20, 1976	Ob-La-Di, Ob-La-Da			49
September 16, 1978	Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band			71
March 27, 1982	The Beatles Movie Medley			12
August 9, 1986	Twist And Shout			23
April 22, 1995	Baby It's You			67
December 30, 1995	Free As A Bird			6
March 23, 1996	Real Love			11

### Section One: *Please, Please Me*

*Please, Please Me*, was The Beatles first album, which was released on March 22nd of 1963 in the United Kingdom following the success of the hit singles "Love Me Do" and "Please, Please Me". In fact the album was rushed to release to capitalize on the success of these two singles as the record company was worried that the "fad" would fade quickly. The Beatles had 4 songs ready for the album (the A-sides & B-sides from the two hit singles) but needed 10 more tracks for the standard 14. At the time most British pop albums had 14 tracks. Amazingly they recorded all 10 of these songs in a single day. They recorded those 10 songs in 9 hours and 45


minutes. They also recorded "Hold Me Tight" but it was left off the album and re-recorded for their second album *With The Beatles*. The album includes 14 songs, 6 of which are covers and 8 of which are Lennon/McCartney originals. It is those 8 Lennon/McCartney originals along with the incredible cover of "Twist & Shout", which are interesting to my ears today and also interesting historically. It was those songs that really created the idea of a "self contained" rock band, a band that wrote and played all of their own music. It's important to understand that context to realize how completely incorrect all of the "boy band" comparison are. Today's "boy bands" are the complete opposite of what The Beatles represented in 1963 in the UK and in 1964 in the US.

#### Side one



#	Title	Length
1.	" <u>I Saw Her Standing There</u> "	2:55
2.	" <u>Misery</u> "	1:50
3.	" <u>Anna (Go to Him)</u> " ( <u>Arthur Alexander</u> )	2:57
4.	" <u>Chains</u> " ( <u>Gerry Goffin</u> , <u>Carole King</u> )	2:26
5.	" <u>Boys</u> " ( <u>Luther Dixon</u> , <u>Wes Farrell</u> )	2:27
6.	" <u>Ask Me Why</u> "	2:27
7.	" <u>Please Please Me</u> "	2:03

#### Side two



#	Title	Length
8.	" <u>Love Me Do</u> "	2:22
9.	" <u>P.S. I Love You</u> "	2:05

10	" <u>Baby It's You</u> " (Mack David, Barney Williams, <u>Burt Bacharach</u> )	2:38
11	" <u>Do You Want to Know a Secret</u> "	1:59
12.	" <u>A Taste of Honey</u> " (Bobby Scott, Ric Marlow)	2:05
13.	" <u>There's a Place</u> "	1:52
14.	" <u>Twist and Shout</u> " (Phil Medley, <u>Bert Russell</u> )	2:33

### Section Two: Songs on Please, Please Me

"I Saw Her Standing There" is a song written by John Lennon and Paul McCartney and is the opening track on The Beatles debut album *Please, Please Me*. The Beatles worked hard to absorb, as well as create, the “beat” music craze which swept Liverpool, London and even in the early sixties. This song, unlike most others recorded this early on in their career, is an accurate reflection of the swinging dance sound they were known for at the Cavern Club and other dance halls around their home town. The initial idea for the song was brought in by McCartney with the purpose of completing it as collaboration with Lennon. The title of the song was originally conceived as “Seventeen.” The title of the song was changed to correspond with their established songwriting structure of ending every verse with the title of the song. In my opinion this song is classic. Nothing could be done to make it better. Personally, I think it is the greatest rock and roll song ever written, and performed. I absolutely love George’s guitar bridge in the middle. No one has ever been able to reproduce it flawlessly; George has his signature on it. This played a very large part in making the Beatles in the beginning.

The 7<sup>th</sup> track on the album was "Please, Please Me" which was the second single released by The Beatles in the UK, and the first to be issued in the US. It was also the title track of their first LP, which was recorded to capitalize on the success of the single. It was originally a John



Lennon composition, although its ultimate form was significantly influenced by George Martin.

The song reached #2 in the UK Singles Charts in January 1963. The instruments in the song were the electric guitar, bass, drums and the harmonica. The beat of the song is something that I really enjoy listening too.

The 8<sup>th</sup> track on the album “Love Me Do,” was a song that was written by Paul McCartney. The song had one message, which was love. “Love Me Do” begins with bluesy harmonica played by John Lennon, then features Lennon and McCartney on joint lead vocals. “Love Me Do” is a legendary song, it was the first song to be recorded and released under The “Beatles” name. The special Beatle harmonies and simple but catchy lyrics make “Love Me Do” an irresistible favorite for lovers of oldies music.

The last track on the album was “Twist and Shout,” which is a song with very high energy. It was The Beatles' best cover song. It was done at the end of the day after they recorded their first album. John Lennon was the lead singer of the song. By the end of the song Lennon's voice was shot because of how much he was screaming in the song. The instruments in the song were the electric guitar, bass and drums. It's a fun song that makes you want to just get up and dance.

### Section Three: Recommendations

I would recommend this album to anyone who likes The Beatles. It's also a fascinating glimpse of what was going on in 1960's music. The hits such as “Please, Please Me” and “Love Me do” are easy to love right away. The rest of the songs on the album create an interesting landscape of sounds and personal feelings that reflect the decade in which they were created, but

that are also timeless and can be appreciated today. The Beatles hold a special place in most people's heart the way the Jonas Brothers do to younger girls now. They were in the right place at the right time, and that's how they became famous. But that's not how they kept their fame. The Beatles had inspiring lyrics that made people re-evaluate their lives, and gave a peaceful way of listening. Their music, though they may not have swayed you, was inspiring to others, especially at that time period, where preaching love was a huge deal. And, because so many loved them back then, it only made sense that they'd become a legend today. It's all a matter of preference really, and most people have come to respect the Beatles and the huge influences they were. I would recommend The Beatles album to other listeners. The Beatles held a place in music that I think no one should pass up. Regardless if you end up liking them or not they were one of the most influential groups in music and for that reason people should listen to their music and really just hear what they are about. You always hear about the bands that blew the charts and that everyone loved, but until you take a music class is when you really start to appreciate the music that you listen to. Learning about the band's lives and their road to fame allows you to pay more attention to their music and gain more interest and knowledge about a band you may be interested in. There is more to a band than the music they played, the history behind the individuals allows you to see the reasons behind the people they are and the purpose of the type of music they produce.