



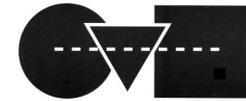
# Adaptation occurs over time.

- Rock 'n' roll was first called R&B then race music, and then changed again to rock and roll. Many artists were inspired to create new music. This explains how the name of the music category changed over time.
- According to Jack Newfield, in "Who Really Invented Rock 'n' Roll?", he states, Elvis Presley was inspired by the blues and black gospel. This can lead to the cultural change in rock 'n' roll that Elvis Presley had on rock 'n' roll (Jack Newfield, 2004).
- According to Jack Hamilton in "How Rock 'n' Roll Became White", he explains, "Another way the whitening of rock and roll music has been addressed has been to place the onus of separation of black performers by arguing that, as the 1960's, black music self-segregated" (Jack Hamilton, 2016). If you notice the rock 'n' roll music, it seems like the line between white and black artist was natural. Or maybe it was an excuse that white people would use so they would be in the fault.



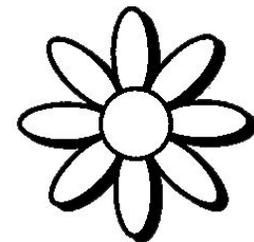
- Although there was racial disagreement whether rock 'n' roll, some people wanted to help mend that line, like the Rolling Stones did, but there were other people that tries to, as well. Just like Jack Hamilton said, "For an object lesson in the roiling, complicated, and rapidly hardening racial realignment of rock music in the late 1960's, there are a few better cases than the Rolling Stones," (Jack Hamilton, 2016).

- According to Jack Hamilton, he communicates, “The Rolling Stones’ obsession with black music and black musicians simply became part of the Rolling Stones, the band that wanted to be Muddy Waters now surrounded by a world of rock musicians who wanted to be them,” This helps understand that the Rolling Stones wanted to incorporate black rock ‘n’ roll in their music, and they did. They were big and they did not just produce White music (Jack Hamilton, 2016).



- According to Marcie Wallace in History: Elvis Presley: A Revolutionist, she informs, “Rock ‘n’ roll was demonstrating the power of the libido, as the music pulsated, the guitarist fondled his instrument, and undulated sensuously. Rock ‘n’ roll seemed to be an anti-inhibitor provoking erotic vandalism.” This piece of information does not talk about the differences between White and Blacks, but there was also this kind of rock ‘n’ roll that people thought was different just like White and Black rock ‘n’ Roll music. (Marcie Wallace, 2016).

- According to Jack Hamilton, he states, “The Rolling Stones’ insistence on the continued relevance of black music to rock and roll was never fully heard; like Hendrix, they became exceptional figures, their curious obsessions with blues and R&B simply becoming another way of being white rock stars” (Hamilton, 2016). No matter how hard they wanted this to pass through they could not have all the rock and roll music together, it is still racialized because some people are still racial, so the plan might have worked a little but not to the full extent.



- According to Philip Lewis, he states, “The fact is that fats Domino sold more records than Elvis between 1953 and 1956. I loved Elvis, but it’s a lie to say he invented

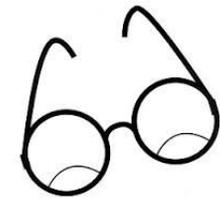
anything.” Because of the fact that people thought that Elvis Presley was the originator of rock ‘n’ roll, Price explains that he is not the creator of rock ‘n’ roll, just a contributor, while it was him and other African American artists (Lloyd Price, Lewis, 2016).



- According to Bill Wyman in *Chuck Berry Invented the Idea of Rock ‘n’ Roll*, he says, “Everly Brothers, sang professionally from the time he was in grade school and closely watched the music evolve,” The Everly Brothers were White singers, they have been there for a while, do they know how the music of rock ‘n’ roll changed over time (Bill Wyman, 2016).

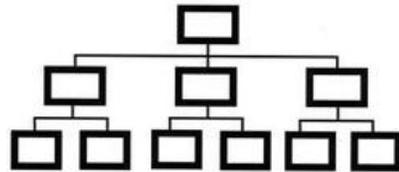


- According to Bill Wyman, he proclaims, “...the dumbed-down jazz, the lava-like blues, the doo-woppy stuff, the boogie-woogie, the blaring R&B, the gospel and spirituals, the rockabilly, that ineffable pop from New Orleans,... pretty quickly that room was filled with people playing rock and roll,” The change from the different kinds of music genres to rock ‘n’ roll, was very quick because of the liking that people took to it (Bill Wyman, 2016).



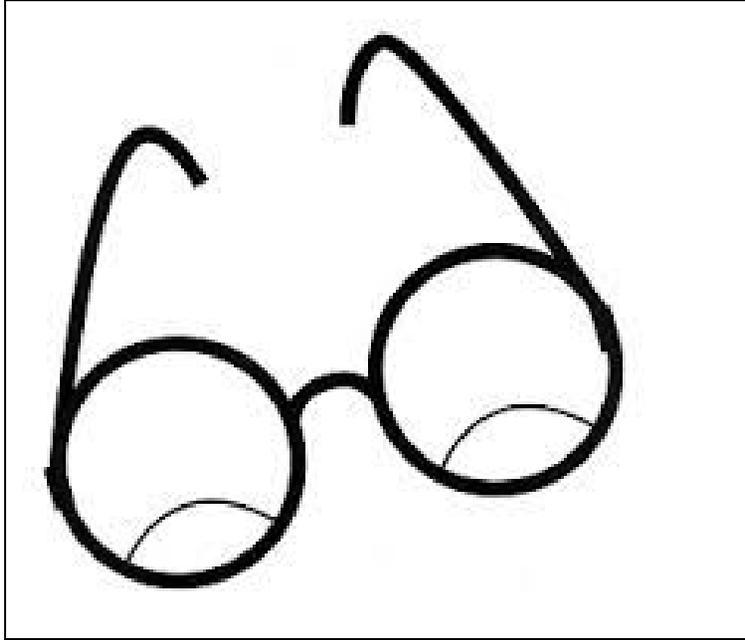
- According to Wallace, she explains, “Rock ‘n’ roll transformed an inchoate sense of disaffection and dissatisfaction into a political and cultural movement,” This explains that rock ‘n’ roll had barely started to develop and was already showing some reactions from people and they were not good ones, whether it was because it expressed libido, or because people thought it came from Black Americans, but it was not easily accepted (Marcie Wallace, 2016).

- According to Wyman, he expresses, “The words ‘rock’ and ‘roll’ had been a staple of blues titles for nearly two decades, and of course Alan Freed popularized the term rock ‘n’ roll,” This explains that the title of this genre was man made, just like the genre that was inspired by other projects (Bill Wyman, 2016).



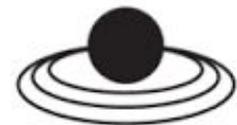
- According to Wyman, he informs, “In the 1960s, the biggest groups in the world-- the Beatles, the Beach Boys, the Rolling Stones-- recorded Chuck Berry songs,” This piece of information shows that even though, rock ‘n’ roll was seen as ‘White’, the heart of the rock ‘n’ roll genre is still Black American, even though people don’t want to see it that way (Bill Wyman, 2016).

- According to Wyman, his information explains, “The American dreams and hymns to rock ‘n’ roll conjured up by artists like Springsteen, Seger, and Tom Petty in the 1970s owed a lot to Chuck Berry” (Bill Wyman, 2016). This helps us understand how chuck berry helped other artists because he invented rock n’ roll.



# Adaptations can be positive or negative.

- From an article by Jack Newfield in 2004, he states that, “Ray Charles, Fats Domino, Big Joe Turner, and Ivory Joe Hunter were artists that influenced Elvis Presley so, Elvis was the one who got the credit for creating rock ‘n’ roll and the others did not until later,” (Jack Newfield, 2004). With this information we can infer that artists like Ray Charles, Fats Domino, Big Joe Turner, and Ivory Joe Hunter might have probably gotten mad at Elvis for having taken the credit for creating rock ‘n’ roll and not have given them any sort of credit
- According to Newfield, he explains how “Rock and roll was a black and white alloy of Fats Domino, Lloyd Price, Ike Turner, Hank Williams, Joe Turner, Louis Jordan, Ray Charles, Little Richard, Jerry Lee Lewis, Chuck Berry, Bo Diddley, Buddy Holly and Elvis Presley” (Jack Newfield, 2004). These are all the artists that were the first known to influence each other or other people which then made up what now is rock ‘n’ roll.
- According to an article by Jack Newfield in 2004, he states, “Miller Beer put seven white musicians on beer cans, and no blacks, and said that they were the founders of rock and roll” (Jack Newfield, 2004). This makes people think that the actual founders of rock ‘n’ roll weren’t blacks at all, yet white Americans.



- As Marcie Wallace explains in a 2016 article, “Elvis Presley challenged the social and moral values of the time and ended up creating a generation that was able to have the freedom of expression” (Marcie Wallace, 2016) She explained thoroughly about Elvis Presley changing and challenging the moral values at that time which we can say created an impact on society.
- According to what Wallace, “American society was terrified and fearful of the possibility that moral values could be changing, yet Elvis Presley was on his way to doing exactly that” (Marcie Wallace, 2016). By this, she means that everyone in the American society was so used to having the same moral values that it made them afraid to change even though that’s exactly what Elvis Presley did.

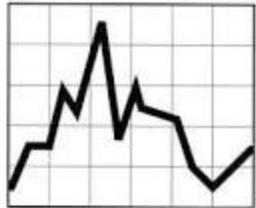


- Wallace explained how, “Elvis captivated the youth of America, but was looked down upon parents and the older population because he was too sexually provocative as his dancing was poisoning the youth” (Marcie Wallace, 2016). Because of the moral values of adults at the time, Elvis was thought as someone who parents wouldn’t want their kids hanging out with because he was thought as “too sexual”
- Wallace furthermore talks about how, “Elvis’ music was considered distasteful, improper, and immoral since it was mixed with roots of African American music which people were prejudiced against” (Marcie Wallace, 2016). This helps us understand how some people were against African American music which made them dislike Elvis’ music.
- Wallace proclaims in her article that, “Rock ‘n’ roll was the most pervasive and potent form of popular music in American history”



(Marcie Wallace, 2016). This gives us an idea of how huge rock 'n' roll came to be.

- According to Wallace she states, “His [Elvis Presley] music became referred to as ‘devil music’ and preachers began to warn their congregations to not listen to rock n’ roll music” (Marcie Wallace, 2016). This connects to multiple perspectives because it’s how different people around the world viewed Presley’s music at the time.

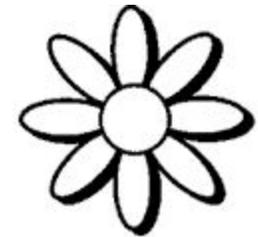


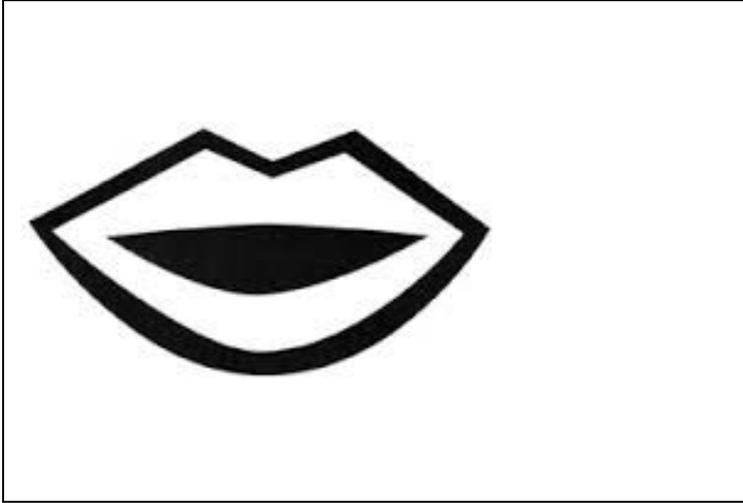
- As Hamilton states, “According to anthropologist Maureen Mahon, by the mid-1970’s young black musicians wanted to play songs by Led Zeppelin and Grand Funk Railroad recalled being ridiculed by white and black peers” (Hamilton, 2016). This shows how there was a line between whites and black when it came to music.

- According to Hamilton, “By 2011, when a popular New York “classic rock” radio station held a listener poll to determine the “Top 1,043” songs of all time, only--roughly 2 percent--were recordings by black artists” (Hamilton, 2016). It was very little black artists that got a bit of attention and it was all taken over by white artists.

- According to Hamilton, “Criticism, historiography, and popular discourse generally have accepted a view of popular music in the 1960’s as split according to genre, and more tactically, race: on one hand is rock music, which is white; on the other hand, soul music, which is black” (Hamilton, 2016). The gap between those would mean that some music would not get as much credit as others.
- Hamilton explains that, “... by far the most common way that the whitening of rock-and-roll music has been discussed is simply not at all” (Hamilton, 2016). People don’t see the wrong of how people separate the music and they don’t address it.

- According to Hamilton, “...Jaggers suggestion that the fans “like the British blokes’ faces” implies that the singer recognized that the Stone’s skin color had given them an undue advantage among audiences” (Hamilton, 2016). Even though they tried to incorporate the black music, some people like them better, maybe it was because of their skin color but it was still being segregated, the rock and roll music that is.
- According to an article by Lewis, "When you see Elvis Presley singing songs early in his career, I think you [should] imagine, he is channeling Rosetta Tharpe. It's not an image that I think we're used to thinking of in rock and roll history. We don't think about the black woman behind the young white man" -Gayle Wald (Lewis, 2016). One of his influences was Rosetta Tharpe, a black woman so people might see it was black people had invented the idea of rock and roll, but others see it as just an influence but not the real inventor.
- According to Lewis he states, “While there is no exact birth date for the creation of rock 'n' roll, it is impossible to ignore the influence of black Americans during the genre's infancy” (Lewis, 2016). There were many contributors to rock and roll, but some did not get all the credit deserved.



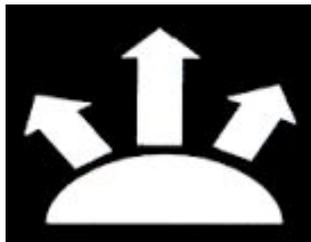


# Adaptation leads to change.

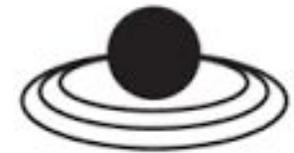
- According to an article entitled “Ripping Off Black Music,” Margo Jefferson explains, “The night Jimi died I dreamed this was the latest step in a plot being designed to eliminate blacks from rock music so that it may be recorded in history as a creation of whites” (Hamilton, 2016). This would be a revolutionary change because Jefferson wants to force the African Americans out of rock and roll, but it was created by both whites and blacks
- Hamilton explains how, “...and yet as the 1960’s progressed, the Rolling Stones’ ongoing proximity to black music and musicians increasingly left them as outliers in a rock-music landscape rapidly distancing itself from black people” (Hamilton, 2016). Because of this change that they were trying to create, it made them more weird and out if the norm.
- According to Wallace, she states, “Elvis Presley was highly influential in changing the social and moral values of white American society, but also in creating a new genre of music which was known and rock ‘n’ roll. The influence of rock ‘n’ roll was very insignificant in the United States. Elvis’ music helped accelerate the path of integration for African Americans and the civil rights movement” (Marcie Wallace, 2016). If it wasn’t for everyone who helped influence Elvis Presley, chances are that most people wouldn’t want to make in change in society the way he ever did.



- Jack Hamilton writes about how the image of the Rolling Stones were “dehumanizing comparisons,” “miscegenation implications distinctly embedded in the headline about sister and daughters,” and “This is not to suggest that the Rolling Stones were rendered as black, but rather they were rendered as something other than properly white.” So even though it was not said out loud, people in America still racialized, even if it wasn't black anymore.



- According to Lewis, “...no one person can lay claim to inventing the rock ‘n’ roll phenomenon. The “we” Little Richard is alluding to refers to black rock ‘n’ roll pioneers such as Little Richard himself, a young Ike Turner, Bo Diddley, Sister Rosetta Tharpe and Chuck Berry” (Lewis, 2016). These were the artists that had to do with the



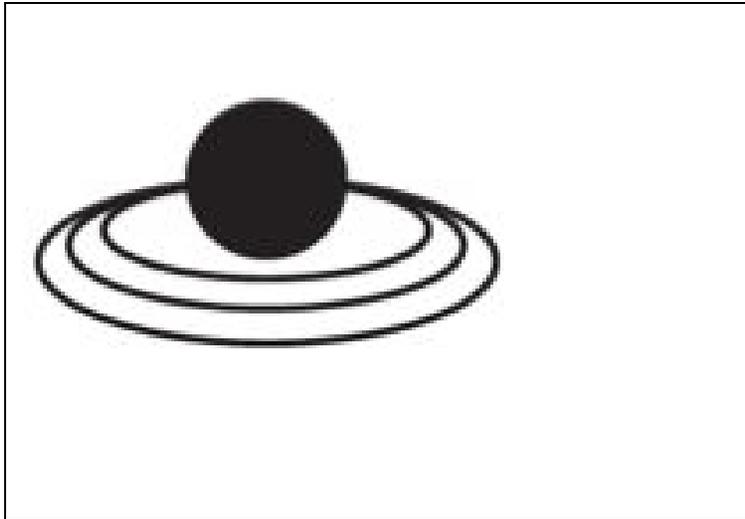
origin, and then more artists would take interest to this and there would be all kinds of artists.

- According to Wyman, he explains how, “Rock and roll was black music that let whites play it, and (not incidentally) vice versa; it was spiritual music that went carnal, regional music that went national (and then international), and rural music that went urban” (Bill Wyman). By rock and roll being black music that let whites play it, it created a change in everyone's lives throughout history.
- As Wyman states in his article, “Only one of the creators of rock and roll articulated this: That there was something new and important in the music he [Chuck Berry] was playing, that the music itself, in a wild, potent way, meant something. He could see beyond the stylistic and personal differences of the players” (Bill Wyman, 2016). Chuck Berry’s music to many was not just any type of music because it had meaning

to it in a wild, potent way.

- According to Wyman, “His [Chuck Berry’s] great contribution was not to invent rock and roll, but invent the idea of rock and roll: that with the verities of truth, imagination, and a backbeat, it held secrets, and promises” (Bill Wyman, 2016). Because of Chuck Berry wanting to create the idea of rock ‘n’ roll, he also wanted it to come with the verities of truth, imagination, and a backbeat which held secrets and promises.
- According to Wyman, “If Chuck Berry didn’t invent rock ‘n’ roll itself, he here certainly created the mythos of the rock and roll star as we knew it for decades-- a solitary figure with a guitar” (Bill Wyman, 2016). Chuck Berry made a huge impact on society by creating rock ‘n’ roll and influencing others with his guitar and songs.
- As Jack Newfield states in his article that, “Fats Domino sold more records than Elvis between 1953 and 1956. Because of this, this conflicts with people when they say that Presley was the ‘King of Rock ‘n’ Roll’, when there were other artists sold more records than him” (Jack Newfield, 2004). This can connect to proof because due to Fats Domino selling more records than Elvis between the years 1952 and 1956, they call Elvis the “King of Rock ‘n’ Roll.”

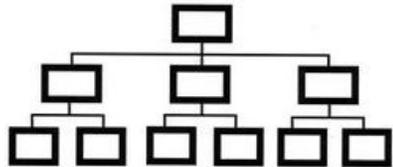




# Adaptation can be planned or spontaneous.

- According to Jack Hamilton, he explains, “*Harper’s* magazine published an essay by future Pulitzer Prize winner Margo Jefferson titled “**Ripping Off Black Music**,” The piece was partly a broad historical overview of white appropriations of black musical forms, from blackface minstrel pioneer T. D, this can also be an example of how White rock ‘n’ roll artists would get more money than Black American artists even though Black Americans created the idea of rock n’ roll (Hamilton, 2016).

- According to Wallace, she describes, “Some 50,000 citizens greeted Elvis even though they are not supposed to like his ‘Rock n’ Roll’ style of music” This shows controversy between the rock ‘n’ roll music. People said it was bad when Black Americans created rock ‘n’ roll, but they enjoyed it when Elvis Presley would (Marcie Wallace, 2016).



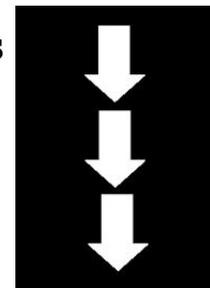
- According to Jack Hamilton, he states, “Margo Jefferson wanted to make rock and roll so that it began among blacks, but had its true flowering among whites; something what was a conflict between these people in America.” Rock n’ roll music was created by blacks but whites took all the credit because of Elvis Presley who was a White American, it all has do it with racial conflict (Hamilton, 2016).

- According to Jack Hamilton, “Or the previously unimaginable inundation of groups from England, most notably a quartet from Liverpool called the Beatles and a quintet from London called the Rolling Stones, both of whom were tireless evangelists for black American music...” This informs us that these were groups that tried to incorporate Black music with White music so that they could do both and not separate them, and they are one together (Hamilton, 2016).



● According to Jack Hamilton, he describes, “These divisions didn’t happen as naturally as we’re often inclined to think: They took work. Rock and roll became white in large part because of stories people told themselves about it, stories that have come to structure the way we listen to an entire era of sound,” Because of this, people created this line between and it was an evolution. This is parallel to that of manifest destiny because the White Americans just talked about rock and roll as if a White created it, even though a Black American created it. It is the same with manifest destiny, the Americans took over the lands claiming it theirs even though it was the Native Americans, even though that later became America, it is still the same concept (Hamilton, 2016).

- According to Jack Hamilton, he explains, “...the Rolling Stones throughout the 1960’s was the band’s purported connection to blackness and racial transgression, both in a musical sense and a more vague, imaginative one” As this quote shows, they contribute to bring the racializing of music to an end and not have it. They helped try and bring the White and Black music together (Hamilton, 2016).



- According to Jack Hamilton, he states, “During their performance of “Under My Thumb,” a black teenager, Meredith Hunter, was stabbed to death by a Hells Angel, his murder captured on film by the crew of *Gimme Shelter*,” This tragedy had happened on December 6, 1969 and it was clear that the segregation between white and black music had not been over and people still did not accept it (Hamilton, 2016).
- According to Philip Lewis, he informs, “However, the beginnings of rock ‘n’ roll must be attributed to the influence of black culture and music,” Knowing this, the fact that the origin of rock ‘n’ roll came from black culture, but it was later taken over by white culture shows the problems that the rock ‘n’ roll music genre had (Lewis, 2016).
- According to Lewis, he states, “The blues had an illegitimate baby and named it rock and roll,” said Little Richard, one of the originators of rock and roll” This shows the fact that rock ‘n’ roll came out of blues, which was a genre that many other music genres came from (Lewis, 2016).
- “Now with Elvis on the scene, American culture began to evolve as white audiences began to listen and enjoy African American music,” This could be after all of the fact that rock ‘n’ roll was considered white, black rock ‘n’ roll music came back (Marcie Wallace, 2016).
- “[Alan Freed]...began what he called a ‘rock ‘n’ roll radio show’. In 1952, and hosted rock and roll concerts with some of the more daring performers of the day,” This helps inform you because not only did Alan Freed began a rock n roll radio show, but by doing so, he helped expand rock n roll across the country (Bill Wyman, 2016).

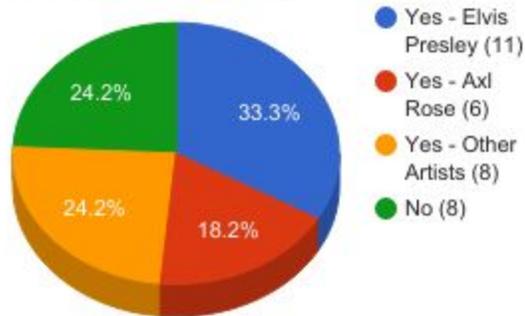
- “In his [Chuck Berry] hands, rock became something mythopoeic, and for a not-insignificant number of years, this exalted perception,” This shows how Chuck Berry invented rock ‘n’ roll with such passion that he was not given credit before (Bill Wyman, 2016).

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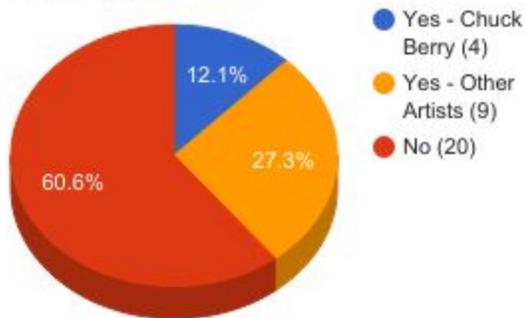
# Survey Results:

Can you name a White American Rock 'n' Roll Artist?



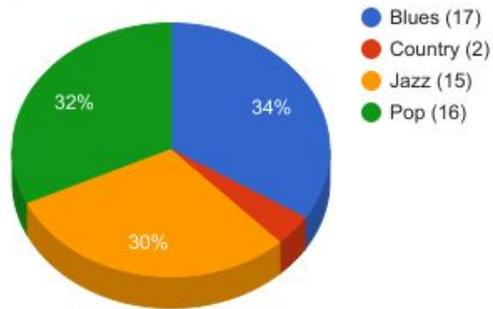
We surveyed 33 people from ages 13 and older who listen to rock 'n' roll music. And of those people who listen to rock 'n' roll music, 25 of those people said they could name a White American rock 'n' roll artist, while 8 of 33 people could not. Of those 25 people, 11 mentioned Elvis Presley, 6 mentioned Axl Rose, and the rest mentioned other artists. This shows that people who do listen to rock 'n' roll, are able to name white artists because rock 'n' roll mostly consists of White artists who create music. Because, of rock 'n' roll music becoming White, there are a lot of people that can name a White artist.

### Can you name a Black Rock 'n' Roll artist?



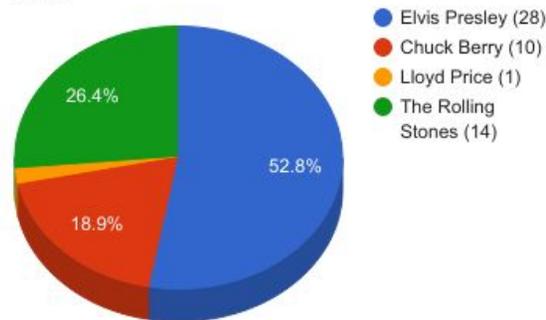
When people answered the second question about whether or not they could name a Black American Rock 'n' Roll artist, 19 of them could not name a Black artist, while only 13 could name a Black artist. 4 out of the 13 that could mention an artist, mentioned Chuck Berry, while the other 9 mentioned various other artists. The burgundy section shows that most of the people being surveyed, could not name a Black rock 'n' roll artist. This can contribute to the differences between White and Black rock 'n' roll since White took over.

**When you think of rock 'n' roll, what genres do you think created it?**



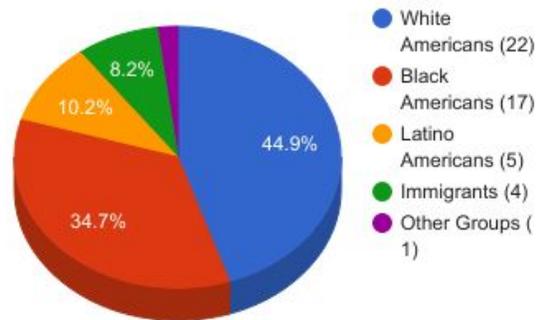
On one of the questions, we asked 33 people what kind of genres they thought created rock 'n' roll. 19 of them said the genre of Blues created rock 'n' roll, 2 said Country, 15 said Jazz, and 16 of them said Pop. The truth is that all of these genres helped contribute to the idea of rock 'n' roll, but because of the origin of rock 'n' roll came from Black Americans, many people chose the blues genre.

Who do you think had the most impact in being responsible for the creation of rock 'n' roll?



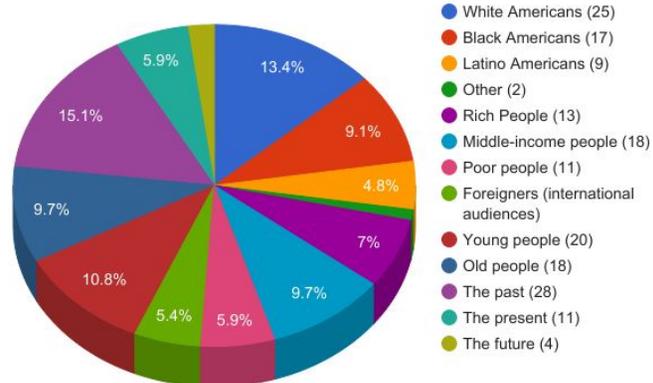
When people answered our fifth question on who do they think had the most impact in being responsible for the creation of rock 'n' roll, 28 of them said Elvis Presley, 10 said Chuck Berry, 14 of them said The Rolling Stones, while only one person said Lloyd Price. Because of the fact that Elvis Presley was known as the “King of Rock” and one of the most famous person to perform rock 'n' roll, people might have chose him. Although that is true, people oftentimes get this confused on Elvis Presley being a big contributor to rock 'n' roll music and Elvis Presley created rock 'n' music. The Rolling Stones were also a big contribution to rock 'n' roll music, more so with helping incorporate more Black rock 'n' roll music into their music. So they were a big help. All in all, all of these artists were contributors to rock 'n' roll music, but a lot of people choose Elvis Presley because he is the most known.

**What group of Americans do you think impacted rock 'n' roll the most?**



A large amount of people chose that White Americans impacted rock 'n' roll. And a big majority also chose Black Americans and both of these are very true. People usually see rock 'n' roll as very American and during the beginning of rock 'n' roll, and those would be the most popular groups. The results of this question shows that the majority of the people being surveyed think that rock 'n' roll consists of White and Black Americans.

Which cultural or racial groups and ideas come to mind when you think of the "rock 'n' roll" genre?



There are many people who think different cultures fit in the rock 'n' roll music category. The people being surveyed had different choices of what does rock 'n' roll fit in with. People chose different kinds of categories. For example, most people think that rock 'n' roll best fits young middle income White Americans from the past, when rock 'n' roll was barely being created. Many people also chose Black Americans who are rich and older from the present. There are lots of groups that can fit into the rock 'n' roll category, but there always seems to be a certain kind of groups that listen to certain songs.

## **ENDING QUESTION**

- How does the music we listen to today contribute to the music we will listen to in the future?
- As a listener of music, how can I listen to music while being mindful of race and appropriation?

Please check out our Symposium blog!

