

Label part of I-Search
Research Journey

Tell what type of source
(magazine article, professional journal article, book, website, interview, etc.)

Magazine Article
Rees, Paul. "Bruce Springsteen." Q. May 2009: 58-61.

MLA Citation

Introduce how you found this source.

Having just researched data on how music had influenced pre and post war eras, I decided to seek out information that would have a connection to my previous source, but referenced music that I am more familiar with. I looked through countless *Time* magazine subscriptions unsuccessfully before I sought out my brother's stash of rock and roll publications. It was in an obscure UK magazine entitled *Q* that I came across an article on Bruce Springsteen that was perfect for this paper. My goal was to bring the connection of how negative lyrics, like those heard in the pre and post war period, create positive reactions today.

Evaluate the source's reliability

The *Q* article, written as Bruce Springsteen prepared to make his first ever UK festival appearance at Glastonbury, was both a biography of his life and work, as well as a slap in the face to those who never really took the time to understand what his music was trying to articulate to the world. Knowing that I, a responsible researcher, should never trust everything that I read in print, I did a brief research check on the facts in this article and found them to be true. Not only was this article informational, it was also extremely entertaining in regards to Springsteen the man, his music, and his turbulent journey to success.

Tell what you learned

Bruce Springsteen's songs are far bigger, and certainly more intellectual, than what would be expected from a musician who, for the first 16 years of his life, considered himself to be "invisible". Springsteen, better known to his countless fans as The Boss, is a far more complex musician and lyricist than those who listen to his music with half an ear will ever know. He has always chosen to write about the world around him, and has the uncanny ability of constructing his melodic masterpieces through the eyes of ordinary people, living ordinary lives.

Born on September 23, 1949 in Long Branch, New Jersey, Springsteen was an "average Joe". His father was a bus driver and his mother, a legal secretary. If you were to ask him about his upbringing, Springsteen would talk about a lonely existence in a family where the father and son never truly bonded. Clashing over everything, Springsteen now thanks his father as he has given him a lifetime of subjects to write about. His songs are full of doubt and despair, of love and loss, of hope, and even redemption. To this day The Boss remains faithfully the voice of people living small trapped lives, who dream of breaking free from their problems. Interestingly enough, he found an untapped niche in the music industry which made him into a musical icon. His voice became the voice of the people. Bono was once quoted as saying, "He created an alternative mythology, one where ordinary lives became extraordinary."

During the presidential campaign in 1994, presidential candidates Ronald Regan and Walter Mondale both asked to use *Born in the USA* as their campaign songs, but Springsteen refused. Had either candidate listened to the song, they would have known that *Born in the USA* was an ironic protest regarding the sad state of this country and not something patriotic. It was this very song, however, that guided him to stardom. Around the world, people barely having an existence, understood what the intellectuals could not. *Born in the USA* sold more than 15 million records in the US alone, but it should be noted that Springsteen had an even bigger global audience. Bruce had accomplished in making the small man seem big, even proud, of the contribution he making to the world. For that, The Boss was respected by fans that would follow him, his band, and their opinions to the death. Even in times when he was warned by others that he might lose his audience, Springsteen followed his instincts when writing a new song.

Now 50, music still remains to be Springsteen's beating heart. He has always lent himself to blue-collar causes, especially donating money to food banks and union drives during the *Born in the USA* tour. During the Vote for Change tour which supported Senator John Kerry, Bruce lent himself to the effort. In 2008 he was also one of the first artists who endorsed Barack Obama for President of the United States. With his song, *The Rising*, he became the only rock star who was able to articulate the fears and doubts after 9 11. In short, he is a man of his country who believes. "It comes down to trying to make people happy. That's my service."

Evaluate what you've learned
Tell which questions it answers
Tell which new questions are raised.

What I was looking for with this article was the impact that a deeper, darker lyric could have on a population. I found it fascinating that an entertainer, who had such painfully passionate messages, also had such a monumental following. I love how he gave a voice and credibility to the individuals who believed they were leading an insignificant life on earth. He has brought a validity to the little man which has been hugely inspirational to millions of people. His commonalities made others feel like rock stars even if only while they were singing to one of his songs. The question now to be answered is where are the uplifting messages of love, peace, and happiness around the world? Who else is making contributions toward a better world?

Writing Outline for Research Journey

MLA Citation: Bolded, Hanging indent

Example:

Gentile, R. and Gentile, D. "How Violent Video Games Are Exemplary Aggression Teachers." Science Daily. 14 Nov. 2007. Web. 7 Nov. 2009. <<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2007/11/071113160359.htm>>

Introduction (*This may be more than 1 paragraph*)

Describe the process you went through to find this source (e.g., keywords used, librarian who aided you, peer or teacher who assisted you, etc.). Tell how you evaluated the website, including the criteria you used. You should include the questions you had that you believed this source would answer. You might speak to the reputation of the organization or person and any bias you know the author has. (Finding this out might necessitate you reading the *About Us* section on a website or entering the author or organization's name into a search engine to determine whether the organization is responsible for any questionable reporting). Be sure to describe this process in this section of your Research Journey.

Body Paragraphs (*This may be many paragraphs*)

This is where you share with the reader the main ideas that were expressed in the source along with the evidence used by the source to validate and support those ideas. This is strictly a reporting or summary of the information that pertains to your research question that is found in the source. *You do not argue or debate this information here.* You should use the **Cornell Notes Worksheets** to help you identify the main ideas and the evidence given.

Conclusion (*This is usually one or two paragraphs*)

This is where you share with the reader any changes in your thinking. Did this source challenge what you believed? Did it support your belief? Did it raise new questions? (If so, what new questions did it raise?) Did it answer old questions? Wrap up your conclusion with a simple statement of how you believe this source aided your research.