

Instructionally Related Activities Report Form

SPONSOR: Joan K. Peters

PROGRAM/DEPARTMENT: English (Literature and Writing)

ACTIVITY TITLE: Guest Speaker, "Woodstock"

DATE (S) OF ACTIVITY: Nov. 17, 2015

Please submit via email to the IRA Coordinator along with any supporting documentation at david.daniels@csuci.edu within 30 days after the activity. Thank you for your commitment to engaging our students!

A. ADDRESS THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

- (1) PROVIDE A DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITY;
PENNY STALLINGS, ONE OF THE ORGANIZERS OF WOODSTOCK, 1969, CAME TO LECTURE IN ENG./HIST. 430: CULTURAL REVOLUTIONS OF THE SIXTIES AND SEVENTIES.
 - (2) HOW DID THE ACTIVITY RELATE TO A COURSE(S) AND/OR LEARNING OBJECTIVES?
ONE OF OUR UNITS IS ON "YOUTH CULTURE," AND WOODSTOCK, WHICH MS. STALLINGS "DECONSTRUCTS" IS A CENTRAL YOUTH CULTURE EVENT.
 - (3) WHAT DO YOU SEE AS THE STRENGTHS OF THE ACTIVITY?
STUDENTS LEARN ABOUT WHY A BARELY PLANNED EVENT WITH HALF A MILLION ATTENDEES COULD REMAIN HARMONIOUS, AND WHAT THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THAT IS.
 - (4) WHAT WOULD YOU SAY ARE/WERE THE ACTIVITY'S WEAKNESSES?
NONE
 - (5) HOW WOULD YOU IMPROVE THIS ACTIVITY FOR NEXT TIME? THIS IS THE 4TH TIME WE'VE HAD THIS ACTIVITY, WHICH WE REPEAT BECAUSE IT'S SO EFFECTIVE.
 - (6) WHAT DID YOU LEARN FROM THE PROCESS? KEEP DOING WHAT WORKS.
 - (7) WHAT ARE STUDENT RESPONSES TO THE ACTIVITY? ATTACH STUDENT EVALUATIONS OR ASSESSMENTS (IN ACCORDANCE WITH FERPA RESTRICTIONS YOU MUST REMOVE ALL PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE STUDENT INFORMATION). STUDENT EVALS ATTACHED.
 - 8) GIVE A SUMMARY OF EXPENSES FOR THE ACTIVITY.
\$300 HONORARIUM
-

B. ATTENDEE LIST- SUPPORTING DOCUMENT:

In addition to the report form, *in a separate document*, attach to your email a list of attendees complete with each student major and grade level. This for IRA Committee reference only and will not be published on the IRA website. Include your name and the title of your IRA activity on the document.



California State
University

INSTRUCTIONALLY RELATED ACTIVITIES

C H A N N E L

Note: the majority of attendees wrote evaluations. Their names are included.

Note: President Rush's wife, Jane Lynch-Rush, who attended Woodstock, lectures with Penny Stallings and gives students a sense of what it was like to be in the crowd of half a million, and what the significance of Woodstock was for her.

C.IMAGES FROM ACTIVITY:

Finally, attach to your email up to 6 images demonstrating student participation (under 2 MB total) with captions/titles. Please attach these photos in .JPEG format directly to email. Thank you!

We do not have any images of the event. I think you'll find the evaluations very vivid.

Select: [All](#) [None](#)

• [Mark](#)



Thread:

Woodstock Reflection

Post:

[Woodstock Reflection](#)

Author:

Stephanie Grey

Posted Date:

November 22, 2015 8:54 PM

Status:

Published

I really enjoyed hearing Penny Stallings' stories about Woodstock. Having only previously heard accounts from attendees and performers, it was refreshing to hear the perspective of an organizer. She gave a lot of insight into how the event was planned, what was expected, and how things were handled when it did not go as planned. It sounded like a truly once in a lifetime experience.

Jane Lynch-Rish's take was quite interesting as well. It was funny to hear that she thought they would just be there for the day and so were completely unprepared to stay the full three days. I loved how their thinking was so non-chalant and easy going, just thinking they would hear some music to entertain them on a weekend afternoon. And the innocence of bringing their 16 year old cousin along.

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Thread:

Woodstock

Post:

[Woodstock](#)

Author:

Sarai Laguna

Posted Date:

November 22, 2015 7:24 PM

Status:

Published

Penny Stallings gave us such a great inside look into what Woodstock really was and the worries they had. I personally was surprised that they had so many things going against them. From not having ticket booths, enough bathrooms, rain, possible electrocution, and acid freak outs it was an event that was full of people just listening to music peacefully. I found it particular interesting that during this time Stallings found her inner feminist and stood up to her superiors. She had a decision to make that took away the crew area and transform it into a first aid section, although they weren't happy, because of the vast amount of people they needed to have a larger first aid. With the help of others they were able to run water and electricity. just because she stood up. What a great example of courage and letting her inner feminist out.

I enjoyed having Jane Lynch-Rush give her inside look of what it was to be attending this famous music festival. You can tell that from the beginning she herself didn't realize how big this festival was going to be. Coming to a festival with only the clothes on their back and a bag of pretzels really shows you how they really didn't think they would be stuck there for days. As she told her personal experience i was able to understand more how concert goers felt so at ease there with no worry in the world and just like Mrs Lynch-Rush she wasn't on drugs but they were like in "la la land". Everyone was so helpful sharing food, clothing its hard to imagine that ever happening today. Having both guest speakers come to our classroom was such a great inside look on what it was in Woodstock.

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Thread:

Woodstock
Post:
[Woodstock](#)
Author:
Alejandro Lopez
Posted Date:
November 22, 2015 6:20 PM
Status:
Published

Penny Stallings and Jane Lynch-Rush were great guests to bring into the classroom to share their experiences of Woodstock. Stallings and Lynch helped bring the history to life, even more so than the documentary. Jane Lynch-Rush perspective was interesting because she expressed that it was mayhem but still enjoyed the festival, the descriptions of her experience was not only comical, but also enthralling. I could understand the magnitude of the event when Rush described leaving her car in the road and walking a mile or two to get to the event because no one could move in that traffic. Rush also described the sense of community of the attendees, of the music festival, as they were willing to share their possessions and food. While the story of her nephew Greg was comical, it was also fascinating that Rush, and her former spouse, were not anxious or concerned for Greg. The ambiance of the festival must have been something incredibly special to trust that a teenage boy would be Ok on his own. I do want to hear about the adventures of Greg, but it is not difficult to imagine what a teenage boy was up to in that environment.

Penny Stallings' perspective was also interesting because it was through a different lenses. While Rush was there to enjoy the festival and be carefree Stallings was occupied concerns. As a coordinator of the festival Stallings carried a great deal of responsibility during the event. I appreciated how Stallings shared her behind the scenes experience in the festival. I was drawn in by Stallings stories about how the organizers dealt with all the problems at Woodstock that could have turned the event into a tragedy. Stallings described dealing with people that were overdosing on acid, providing food for the audience, bringing in the national guard to provide blankets, instructing people what acid not to take, or to get off of towers that could potentially electrocute them and number of other wacky issues that were unique to the festival. I also enjoyed how Stallings described her experience with Sly Stone on the sinking stage. I enjoyed the guest speakers immensely and found their recollections entertaining and educational.

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Thread:
Woodstock Reflection
Post:
[Woodstock Reflection](#)
Author:
John Gianelli
Posted Date:
November 22, 2015 5:28 PM
Status:
Published

I've seen the woodstock movie before but in the past I was focused strictly on the music. I didnt really take much interest on the social and political aspects of the festival. I was more concerned about watching Jimi Hendrix shred the National Anthem and watching Pete Townshend throw his guitar into the crowd after slamming it into the stage. Because of my further understanding of social movements in the 60's due to our class I watched this movie with a greater sense of depth. Woodstock was more than just some bands playing, it defined a generation of like-minded people. One thing that really stuck out to me was the potential for complete disaster and how the festival avoided such issues and peace love and music prevailed. It was a special treat having Penny Stallings speak in class. I enjoyed how she was not your typical "hippie" woodstock attendee and how she had a very big roll in helping make

woodstock happen. I think she opened up my awareness about how big of a deal woodstock was and how easily things could have spiralled out of control.

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Thread:

Woodstock Reflection

Post:

[Woodstock Reflection](#)

Author:

Pardeep Lal

Posted Date:

November 22, 2015 1:05 PM

Status:

Published

I had no idea that woodstock suffered so much from a logistical standpoint. Everyone knows it was three days of peace, love, and music, but it never occurred to me how a massive event like that needed basic things. Like food, water, a medical tent, and security. However things never went completely and utterly wrong. Besides acid freakouts, there was no inherent violence, no stealing, people seemed willing to share. And that's what struck me. The fact that people were not worried about what could go wrong, rather they were at peace with whatever was going on around them. Such a thing could not exist in today's world. Too many concerns over security and safety would null any attempt at peace and music. Let's just say it would be a charade at best. But the fact that woodstock did it back then, is a testament to what the population can do.

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Thread:

Woodstock Reflection

Post:

[Woodstock Reflection](#)

Author:

Priscilla Sanchez

Posted Date:

November 22, 2015 11:52 AM

Status:

Published

According to the media, the Woodstock festival was seen as a huge event for the youth culture during the sixties. What I learned from Penny Stallings and Jane Lynch-Rush was that the Woodstock environment was chaotic, peaceful, and memorable. Woodstock was chaotic because of the condition of the stage sinking, and the way the booths were unorganized. Stallings had to stand up for herself, so she could get her job done while considering the conditions of the people. As for Lynch-Rush experience, it was interesting how she did not worry about her fourteen year old brother-in-law for the three days he was gone because of the happy environment. She mentioned that there would never be another Woodstock festival like the one in the sixties because of the environment then. They both found the music and the environment peaceful because everyone was united together for this event: The youth culture identified themselves with the music and the impression of freedom. Having Stallings and Lynch-Rush as guest speakers was enlightening because they clarified with their experiences that Woodstock was chaotic with a lot of miraculous energy.

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Thread:

Woodstock

Post:

[Woodstock](#)

Author:

Rachel Richardson

Posted Date:

November 22, 2015 11:52 AM

Status:

Published

I didn't realize how spontaneous Woodstock was until our guest speakers shared their experiences. My heart goes out to Penny Stallings for trying to keep the event intact, especially during its rough times. Without her efforts, the event could have been a complete disaster. On the other hand, Jane Lynch-Rush's experience with Woodstock was more relaxed. Unlike Stallings, Lynch-Rush was able to enjoy the festival. I will say that I found it amusing that she was able to get the resources she needed from complete strangers and not think twice about the consequences over the course of 3 days. The fact that most of the people who attended Woodstock were part of the anti-war movement helped shape the crowd into a more of a community rather than an audience. All in all, Woodstock would not have been as iconic if it weren't for everyone involved in it.

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Thread:

Woodstock Reflection

Post:

[Woodstock Reflection](#)

Author:

Grant Crater

Posted Date:

November 22, 2015 11:30 AM

Status:

Published

The first speaker of the day, Penny Stallings, elucidated for us the maddening hurdles Woodstock event organizers had to overcome to execute one of the most transformative American cultural experiences of the 60s. It was particularly helpful to hear the ways my understanding of the festival was lacking. For example, like many of my classmates, it seemed to me that Woodstock represented the best possible iteration of controlled chaos; according to Penny Stallings, this was hardly the case, as she and other organizers were on-edge for the concert's duration, facing issues with life and death consequences over which they had very little control. While certainly adding a dose of reality, this new understanding of the haphazard element of Woodstock didn't make the event seem any less romantic. Ms. Stallings, after laying out all the ways in which the event could have turned disastrous and deadly, noted that in some respects, "the hippie God smiled on us." Without getting too ethereal, there's something reassuring in an event of Woodstock's magnitude being cosmically rewarded for its good intentions. If fate, luck, and a general air of goodwill coalesced with the blood, sweat, and tears of organizers and concert goers, then the event's weight only increases in magnitude.

Unfortunately, I was unable to remain for Jane Lynch-Rush's presentation, but I wish to express my thanks to both speakers, whose willingness to share their stories is wholeheartedly appreciated.

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Thread:

Penny Stallings and Jane Lynch-Rush Reflection

Post:

[Penny Stallings and Jane Lynch-Rush Reflection](#)

Author:

Elizabeth Bennett

Posted Date:

November 22, 2015 10:17 AM

Status:

Published

I learned a lot about Woodstock from the accounts of Penny Stallings and Jane Lynch-Rush. The fact that Stallings—who was a young woman no older than I at the time—managed to help create this amazing beacon of history is nothing short of inspiring. Knowing Stallings could create something as epic as this at her relatively young age inspires me to work harder and take advantage of opportunities in order to create something as wonderful. In comparison to Stallings managerial point of view of Woodstock, it was nice to hear Jane Lynch-Rush's viewpoint as well. As Lynch-Rush was an audience member, her memory of Woodstock is completely different. The fact that she brought—and subsequently lost—a fourteen-year-old is really funny. Nevertheless, both women brought a human perspective to Woodstock that I am incredibly grateful for.

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Thread:

Woodstock

Post:

[Woodstock](#)

Author:

Samantha Mendoza

Posted Date:

November 22, 2015 1:14 AM

Status:

Published

I thought it was rather funny to learn that despite the dedication put into woodstock, that there was few people who actually knew what they were doing. To put something like that on, even though completely unaware of how huge the turn out would be, but to be so unorganized is shocking. I'm glad that the people there embodied the spirit of the Anit-War movement and nonviolence. I never really thought of Woodstock as an event that would be listed in the paper, in my mind it was always this huge historic event that people always knew was going to be big. To think someone just went because they wanted to show a family member a good time over the weekend is mind blowing for me. I also could never image losing someone in that crowd and being so unconcerned for their safety. But I suppose that also fits into the mentality of the 60s and 70s, especially for the youths.

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Thread:

Penny Stallings and Jane Lynch Rush

Post:

[Penny Stallings and Jane Lynch Rush](#)

Author:

Alex Manriquez

Posted Date:

November 21, 2015 11:34 PM

Status:

Published

One thing that struck me was when Penny Stallings, while working as an administrative assistant at Woodstock, fought this guy who was in charge of the food stands there. She wanted to be tough and strong as the men. I can't remember why she fought that guy, but it made me think back to when we talked the feminists movements, a part

where women trained in self defense programs because they were victims of their abusive husbands and were viewed as sexual objects in the past, as I remember seeing in "She's Beautiful When She Angry." These are two examples of the fact that women can be whatever they want to be, discover their own talents, and to avoid the sense that women can't be happy without a male counterpoint because in the end, they will find themselves prone to being a slave object and victim to the husband through rape, beatings, and possibly murder. In regards to Jane Rush, I was glad that she, her husband Mike, and 14 year Greg enjoyed the music and the festival and had good hospitality because the hippies kindly shared items with the Lynch, even though they struggled to sleep at night in the mud, and in the rain.

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Thread:

Woodstock Reflections

Post:

[Woodstock Reflections](#)

Author:

Kimberly Neptune

Posted Date:

November 21, 2015 5:55 PM

Status:

Published

It was very interesting to hear the first hand experiences of a Woodstock 'employee' and an average festival attendee. One of the more fascinating parts of both speeches was hearing Penny Stallings speak about the major risks involved and the almost-disasters that occurred. From previous knowledge, I knew about how rainy and muddy the festival became, but never realized that there were electrical wires underneath the dirt that could have several shocked hundreds of people. I never fully realized the extent of stress that people working Woodstock would have been under, and the amount of maneuvering they had to do to keep me alive, and happy. Having to call in the National Guard in order to provide blankets shows the sheer magnitude of difficulties they faced. It was equally as interesting hearing from Jane-Lynch Rush. There is often a stigma surrounding the types of people who attended Woodstock, and they can often be negatively portrayed in the media. Mrs. Rush was an average American, and attended the festival to hear good music. While there were absolutely people doing drugs and embracing that lifestyle there, there were still people who attended it just as any other concert. It was a welcoming and friendly environment that I would have loved to attend.

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Thread:

Stallings, Lynch-Rush, and Woodstock

Post:

[Stallings, Lynch-Rush, and Woodstock](#)

Author:

Michael Meade

Posted Date:

November 21, 2015 1:22 PM

Status:

Published

Michael P. Meade

Professor Peters/Barajas

Traditions and Transformations

21 Nov. 2015

Reflections: Penny Stallings, Jane-Lynch-Rush, and Woodstock

The discussion led by Penny Stallings and Jane Lynch-Rush on November 17 on Woodstock was very informative and offered an interesting insight on what went on during that three day event. Stallings was one of fifty workers who set up and ran (to the best of their availability) the concert event. She frequently grew frustrated with other co-workers over their lack of vigilance over a lack of food, blankets, and other supplies for the concert attendees. This frustration also stemmed from having poor fences and ticket-handling during the event as well as the electrical problems that developed when it began to rain and mud started to become prevalent. Lynch-Rush was, at this time, going with her husband and nephew to this insane, packed event. She lost her nephew after the first couple of hours attending the event and she didn't find him until he bumped into her on the last day. With both of these anecdotes, it's clear that Woodstock was chaotic and frustrating at times, but it was absolutely an event never to be forgotten. After hearing this discussion I wish that I could've had a taste of this incredible experience and the social impact it had on society as a whole. I'm happy that I was able to listen to these stories and I am interested in seeing how many more stories are like the ones shared by Stallings and Lynch-Rush and how those stories developed the legend that is Woodstock.

Attachment:  [Reflection Paper on Stallings and Lynch-Rush and Woodstock - Traditions and Transformations - 11-21-2015.docx](#) (14.354 KB)

[Reply](#) [Quote](#) [Mark as Read](#)



Thread:

Woodstock Guest Speakers Reflection

Post:

[Woodstock Guest Speakers Reflection](#)

Author:

Justin Bishop

Posted Date:

November 21, 2015 12:52 AM

Status:

Published

It is always a great privilege to listen to two different perspectives on an event in which you thought you understood about, but actually only understood. When individuals think about Woodstock, they visualize a glorious blending of music and youths, both sharing a sort of bitterness toward many of the uncivilized actions of United States. However, individuals rarely get a sense of what was really happening behind the scenes. Penny Stallings offers a very important perspective, being an organizer for the event, she spent many difficult months putting the event together, and yet it never truly became organized. The expectation of attendance was only 100,000, which was shattered by the appearance of 400,000. There were no entrances, no ticket collectors, no food, and hardly any medical care. For Penny Stallings, Woodstock seemed like a recipe for chaos, safety became a major concern, but the people in attendance remained peaceful and cooperative, and the danger levels remained contained. Besides being a peaceful gathering to enjoy music, Stallings pointed out that Woodstock showed business communities that there was money to be made in music. I was not too familiar with Michael Lang's impact on the music industry. His decision to offer musicians compensation for performing at Woodstock had a significant impact on the way the musician would achieve success in the music industry. The other perspective we were fortunate enough to hear about, was that of Jane Lynch-Rush, one of the attendees of the event. She described the event as a peaceful gathering where nothing was a problem. She recalled planning to only attend one day, but got stuck, because of the back up of cars that blocked their escape, therefore she remained until it all ended. She also revealed

that she brought a 14 year old boy along with her, whom she ended up losing at the event. Now, most individuals would probably enter a state of panic in this situation, however, that thought never entered her mind. She had realized that there were no problems, everyone was friendly and positive, so there was never any need to worry. Eventually they were reunited by chance, yet what had happened in between their separation, remains a mystery. I enjoyed listening to Jane Lynch-Rush capturing of the attitudes of the youths that attended the event. It was pleasure listening to the two different outlooks on Woodstock from Pat Stallings and Jane Lynch-Rush. Hearing their stories has given me a whole new way of looking at the event, not only does it represent a major event in youth counter-culture, it has had a significant impact on the music industry.

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Thread:

Woodstock Reflection

Post:

[Woodstock Reflection](#)

Author:

Lewis Varney

Posted Date:

November 20, 2015 9:05 PM

Status:

Published

I enjoyed our speakers this week because they were able to fill in some gaps that the documentary left out. I enjoyed the documentary because you were able to see some of what went on around the site during the festival, and it also showed you a good deal of the performances that were there. I think Penny's input was incredibly interesting because she brought a certain personality trait that you don't normally see in the "hippie" culture. She described herself as a wannabe tough guy, and acted rather pugnacious. That completely contradicts the attitudes and personalities of those that attended the festival. I think it was able to work for Penny in a very productive way, seeing as how nothing went terribly wrong that was beyond her control. It must have been nice to have unlimited funds to pull from, which helped in combatting the unexpected rainfall. I enjoyed Jane's perspective as well, because she wasn't a typical hippie of this time period. She was a working woman, and brought along a 14 year old boy to enjoy the festival with. This shows a small ounce of naivety on her part, not being aware of how this might affect someone who is underage. I think it ended up being a positive experience for Jane, and especially her 14 year old companion Greg, who became somewhat of a star at his high school, being the only student who actually attended. In conclusion, I think having Jane and Penny speak with the class helped make this topic of Woodstock transition from a historical event to a real event that actually occurred in these women's lives.

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Thread:

Woodstock Reflection

Post:

[Woodstock Reflection](#)

Author:

Valerie Kunzelmann

Posted Date:

November 20, 2015 7:45 PM

Status:

Published

There is something so authentic and refreshing about hearing about major historical events from the people that were actually there. While textbooks, pictures, films, etc. are great mediums for students to explore history, nothing comes close to hearing from the people that were present at those moments. Having Penny Stallings and Jane Lynch-Rush come in and share their Woodstock experiences was such a treat because I got to hear about the side of Woodstock that the media can never properly show or tell. What was even more amazing was having two different perspectives on Woodstock; one from someone who organized the event and the other, an innocent participant of the event. What stood out the most to me from Penny Stallings's lecture was the fact that at such a young age she seized the moment and became part of something that would change the world, not knowing at the time the implication of what she became part of. The reason why Penny Stallings left such an impression on me as well is that she was my

age when she worked on putting Woodstock together, which excites me about the things that I have to become part of and do. Not for recognition but simply because I believe in a cause and what it stands for. Jane Lynch-Rush's lecture was also fantastic because the whole way of how she ended up at Woodstock. When we, in the twenty-first century, look back on Woodstock it has such a tremendous amount of nostalgia and greatness to it. But at the time, for the people actually going, it may have started as a simple day trip to entertain a fourteen year-old boy. What was also so enjoyable about Jane Lynch-Rush's lecture was that she was just a normal young woman from New York. She really shattered the image of Woodstock being only an event attended solely by hippies, anti-war protestors, and those high strung out on drugs. While they certainly played a part in Woodstock, people such as Mrs. Lynch-Rush were also part of the group and I feel like we never truly hear that side of the story. Having both of these women come in and take the time to speak to us was truly a valuable experience because they brought their stories to us; they made Woodstock personal and real to us.

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Thread:

Reflection

Post:

[Reflection](#)

Author:

Alyssa Jenkins

Posted Date:

November 19, 2015 10:51 AM

Status:

Published

This was such a great speaker series because we got to see two different sides of Woodstock from a real perspective. The Movie gave a rough over view of some of the things that were going on, such as it being a financial disaster. Neither women knew that there was going to be as many people coming out to the show. Penny's view point was a bit different because she was behind the scenes and worked on this event for months before. It was like a regular job for her, she even had difficulties with her original boss. Penny also had other concerns such as; the safety of the people, the sinking stage, care-packages (toothbrushes). On the complete other side of the spectrum Jane hadn't even planned it out, she cam across the add in the newspaper on a whim. Jane was only intending to stay one day, but there was no leaving once you got there because all the cars were boxed in and the freeway was closed. She went and didnt bring any food but she felt fine and at peace, she even lost her brother-in-law in a sea of people but felt okay. SIMilar to the feelings in the movie (Woodstock) when the rain was pouring the guy with the camera was asking people walking by if they were okay and they were still having a good time. The unity and trust displayed at this even is unrivaled by any other event, which seems to have only been possible with this culture. The message in the music and the feelings of the people were in unison, for peace and unity.

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Thread:

Woodstock reflection

Post:

[Woodstock reflection](#)

Author:

Roby Zahal Ordonez Ordonez

Posted Date:

November 19, 2015 9:35 AM

Status:

Published

Attachment:  [woodstock.docx](#) (12.874 KB)

[Reply](#) [Quote](#) [Mark as Read](#)



Thread:

Woodstock Reflection

Post:

[Woodstock Reflection](#)

Author:

Trenton Bland

Posted Date:

November 18, 2015 10:17 PM

Status:

Published

I enjoyed the Woodstock speakers. I liked Penny's perspective because I've known about woodstock, but I never thought about the people who put it together. I think that because the festival itself was so free formed and relaxed I had just assumed that it was created in a similar way, which was dumb on my part because some of the biggest acts in the world were there, of course there was a massive amount of planning and money that went into that. I didn't know that so many young people were involved in making woodstock, I knew that the crowd was young, but again, I stupidly assumed that it was put together by older men. I was happy to find out that it was actually people who are the same age as I am now that put it together.

I also liked Janes perspective because I had always assumed that the only people who attended were hippies and it gave me a new perspective when I found out that she liked the music, even though she was a married school teacher. I had always assumed that rock was the music of the counter culture and that "normal" people didn't like it. I thought her story was funny, not just losing Greg, but the fact that she thought they would go for the day. Even though they had nothing but a bag of pretzles they were able to enjoy themselves in the mud for three days which says a lot about Woodstock. I enjoyed both the speakers and got an entirely new perspective on a subject I thought I knew well.

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Thread:

Reflection on Woodstock Guest Speakers

Post:

[Reflection on Woodstock Guest Speakers](#)

Author:

Caitlin Schwanke

Posted Date:

November 18, 2015 11:12 AM

Status:

Published

While I had a basic understanding of what had occurred at Woodstock due to the movie and my previous readings, our guest speakers Penny Stallings and Jane Rush gave me a much better idea of not only the historic events, but the feelings or vibe of both the organizers and the audience. I would like to thank them for giving me such a tangible idea of what occurred. I found it especially interesting how music, which has always been seen as an indication and communication of cultural beliefs, politics, and community, was so much more open and accessible at the time of Woodstock. While I'm sure it was shocking to the organizers, I was actually not surprised by the number of people who would attend such an event. Not only were some of the most popular musicians of the time present, but it was a central event for culture and a height to the freedom movements behind the hippies and other societal groups of the sixties. I think it is a testament to the time that such a large gathering remained so peaceful and only wish there was a way to recreate it today.

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[Quote](#)

[Mark as Read](#)



Thread:

Reflection

Post:

[Reflection](#)

Author:

Chelsea Soto

Posted Date:

November 17, 2015 8:26 PM

Status:

Published

Before today's guests speakers I wasn't too familiar with the music Festival Woodstock. Although the movie we had watched before gave a sense of well-planned organization this was false. Penny Stallings was able to give us an insight of the behind the scenes of Woodstock. It was interesting to learn about the stage. She was able to realize the stage was sinking into the mud. The fact that the show must go on still amazes me of how artists continued to give a show to the 500,000 audience. That at any given moment that stage could've collapsed. Another point that I really found great was there was no alcohol. People were able to enjoy the music and each other's company as fellow neighbors. The embodiment of the Sixties youth values were anti-war, wanted peace and communal with items. For Example, Jane Lynch-Rush shared with the class went to the concert without bringing food or clothes etc.

Music is an essential tool that can bring an audience together like the festival Woodstock did. As a fellow classmate addressed a majority of our music today is opposite. Instead of bringing a closeness it's more on individuality. Music artists encourage making money, social media and having a good time. The embodiment of sixties youth values has a sense of belonging in a community.

Lastly, while watching the movie on Woodstock it caught my attention that there were few minorities in the audience of the film. In the movie the audience consisted of a white majority. There were the performers Jimi Hendrix, Santana, Richie Havens, Sly & the Family Stone and Joan Baez.

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Thread:

Woodstock & Guest Speakers Reflection

Post:

[RE: Woodstock & Guest Speakers Reflection](#)

Author:

Meghann Tauch

Posted Date:

November 17, 2015 7:44 PM

Status:

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please delete/ignore, i accidentally hit the submit button without typing anything (haha) !

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Thread:

Woodstock & Guest Speakers Reflection

Post:

[Woodstock & Guest Speakers Reflection](#)

Author:

Meghann Tauch

Posted Date:

November 17, 2015 7:43 PM

Status:

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I really enjoyed having both Penny Stallings and Jane Lynch-Rush speak to the class, I found their experiences to be very interesting and engaging and gave us all a much more tangible idea of what Woodstock was like to those who were actually able to experience it. Although for Penny it seemed like it was a lot more of a stressful and exhausting endeavor than what Jane might have experienced, they both had some great perspectives. It struck me a bit when Penny mentioned that her time working to organize and maintain Woodstock taught her a bit about being more outspoken and tough, since it was a time before the Feminist movement, and her story about how she argued with her boss about turning the employee meal tent into another medical area - even though she said her voice was wavering and she felt very anxious about it - really shows how she grew as a person at only 21 years old. It must

have been an incredible experience even if it was stressful, and to know that you took part in such a widely historic movement and event in time isn't something that everyone can say.

In Jane's case, I found her story pretty hilarious when it was made clear that she had planned to only spend a day at Woodstock, and instead was basically forced to spend the entire weekend there. It didn't seem like she minded too much, and even though her and her husband lost little Gary for a certain number of days, everything turned out fine when they (literally) bumped into each other again. It says a lot about the frame of mind that a lot of people had at the time, where they were simply trusting of all the people there and because of everyone else's kindness, they weren't worried at all about Gary's well-being. It's still crazy for me to think of how there was such a huge event like that of over five hundred thousand people and that there wasn't a lot of bad that came from it other than a few medical emergencies, one death, and a whole lot of scoffing publicity that you still hear about even now. These days, such a giant event like that would have a lot more of a dangerous feeling to it, and the people involved would probably be a lot less selfless and caring than those who attended Woodstock in 1969.

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Thread:

Reflection

Post:

[Reflection](#)

Author:

Elizabeth White

Posted Date:

November 17, 2015 7:04 PM

Status:

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Listening to our guest speakers, Penny Stallings, and Jane Lynch-Rush, I learned about the true impact Woodstock carried for many people. This event was a political gathering for many young teens. Through music, they would show the world the importance of love and peace in a world where war was relevant. Penny Selling was one of the organizers of the event, and talked about the frightening reality of how Woodstock was developed. Unstable stages, fences, and plumbing was just three of the many problems this event had. No sense of direction or rules of any kind were established and Food, clothing and water was hard to come by. There were many injuries throughout the three day weekend, and a fear that anything that could go wrong, would go wrong was very ideal. But throughout all the Chaos, the feeling of love, sharing, and care, should be felt from miles away. This is why this event was so successful. Even though it was seen as a financial disaster, it was the first revolutionary event that influence this need for unconditional love and support throughout the world. It was the first and last time kids could be so corny and unconscious. Jane Rush continues the conversation by saying, that the music was what influence her on going. Seeing Jimmy Hendricks was the highlight of her experience. In the end, the influence that music had to a large variety of people, stayed with them throughout their lives and because of that, Woodstock was seen as a new stepping stone to a new and more beautiful outlook on life.

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Reflection

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[Reflection](#)

Author:

Aaron Vad

Posted Date:

November 17, 2015 4:46 PM

Status:

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Listening to the guest speakers Stallings and Rush, I learned about the creation of the monumental event known as Woodstock, as well as what it was like to participate in the concert as a normal citizen. Stallings illustrated the sheer chaos and unorganized nature behind the formation of the event, which showed how lucky everyone was that more didn't go severely wrong. Rush talked about the mood of the people there and the sense of community that everyone felt attending the concert. I believe these two contrasting perspectives creates an overall view that shows why Woodstock embodies Sixties' youth values. Although the concert was unorganized, free, and lacked basic necessities, the community was there to have a good time and ended up helping each other. The sense of camaraderie is something that is solely lacking in today's youth, and is emblematic of the time around Woodstock.

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Author:

Meghann Tauch

Posted Date:

November 17, 2015 4:22 PM

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11/17/2015