



**INSTRUCTIONALLY  
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Proposal # 621

***Instructionally Related Activities Report Form***

SPONSOR: JOAN PETERS

PROGRAM: ENGLISH

ACTIVITY TITLE: WOODSTOCK LECTURE

DATE (S) OF ACTIVITY: FALL, 2014

E-mail to the IRA Coordinator with supporting documentation at [lisa.ayre-smith@csuci.edu](mailto:lisa.ayre-smith@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 ORIGINAL WOODSTOCK ORGANIZERS, CAME TO LECTURE TO OUR CLASS ON THE SIGNIFICANCE OF WOODSTOCK TO THE 60'S REVOLUTIONS WE'VE STUDIED.
- (2) HOW DID THE ACTIVITY RELATE TO A COURSE(S) AND/OR LEARNING OBJECTIVES?  
THEY SAW HER ORIGINAL FOOTAGE AND WERE ABLE TO UNDERSTAND HOW THE EVENT EXPRESSED THE ZEITGEIST OF THE PERIOD.
- (3) WHAT DO YOU SEE AS THE STRENGTHS OF THE ACTIVITY?  
THE STUDENTS AGREED IT WAS THE MOST INTERESTING LECTURE OF THE YEAR. THEY HADN'T UNDERSTOOD WHAT ITS MEANING WAS, BEYOND JUST MUSIC AND DRUGS.
- (4) WHAT WOULD YOU SAY ARE/WERE THE ACTIVITY'S WEAKNESSES? NONE
- (5) HOW WOULD YOU IMPROVE THIS ACTIVITY FOR NEXT TIME? NO IMPROVEMENT NEEDED.  
SHE'S COME TO GIVE THIS LECTURE SEVERAL YEARS IN A ROW AND THE STUDENT FEEDBACK IS ALWAYS ENTHUSIASTIC.
- (6) WHAT DID YOU LEARN FROM THE PROCESS? IT'S AN ACTIVITY I WANT TO REPEAT.
- (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). EVALUATIONS ATTACHED.
- 8) GIVE A SUMMARY OF EXPENSES FOR THE ACTIVITY. \$300. HONORARIUM.

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**B. ATTENDEE LIST- SEPARATE 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



**INSTRUCTIONALLY  
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reference only and will not be published on the IRA website. Include your name and the title of your IRA activity on the document.

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**C.IMAGES FROM ACTIVITY:**

Finally, include up to 6 images demonstrating student participation (under 2.5 MB total). You **MUST** include captions/titles for each photo. You may put these photos in a Word or PDF format, or attach these photos in JPEG format directly to email. Thank you!

No images available.

Sort by  Order Select:   **Thread:** Thank You Penny!**Post:** Thank You Penny!**Author:**  **Manita Moreno****Posted Date:** November 25, 2014 10:30 AM**Edited Date:** November 25, 2014 10:30 AM**Status:** Published

I really enjoyed hearing Pennys stories about Woodstock. I was surprised to learn that there was no food on the premises and that it had to flown in. I knew that food and supplies were brought in but I originally believed that there was just not enough to feed all of the concert goers. What I enjoyed is that we were able to have a first hand account from someone that was there to witness and participate in Woodstock and not just learning from a book. She brought a wealth of knowledge about Woodstock and I very much enjoyed having her as a guest speaker.

[Reply](#) [Quote](#) [Mark as Read](#)**Thread:** Thank You Penny!**Post:** Thank You Penny!**Author:**  **Manita Moreno****Posted Date:** November 25, 2014 9:58 AM**Status:** Published


Thank you Penny I truly enjoyed the personal stories about Woodstock. What I learned from the discussion was that it was a once in a lifetime event. There was a constant danger of "what could go wrong" but nothing to that extent did. Now the fact that none of the countless thing that could go wrong didn't, the real question is why. Now one of the biggest was because of the music, having this sense of unity with everyone around, all where there for the music. The music brought people of all different background together for one weekend. There is also the fact that Woodstock also was about the movement, Woodstock stood for something. As corny as it sound it was magical, and it will never happen again.

[Reply](#) [Quote](#) [Mark as Read](#)**Thread:** Reflection Penny Stallings**Post:** Reflection Penny Stallings**Author:**  **August Poulos****Posted Date:** November 25, 2014 8:47 AM**Edited Date:** November 25, 2014 8:47 AM**Status:** Published

August Poulos


The lecture Penny Stallings gave was amazing. It was wonderful to hear such a personal narative about woodstock. I learned so much that i had not learned from the film and other sources i have hear about woodstock. I learned that only one person died, that all of the funding came from one guy (or rather his family). The personal story gave some much apriciated detail, especially about the behind the curtain struggles the organizers dealt with. Even after researching woodstock and hearing from one of it's organizers i am still amazed by it and the massive impact it has had on people then and now.

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**Thread:** Penny  
**Post:** Penny  
**Author:**  Bellanitta Guerra  
**Posted Date:** November 25, 2014 12:51 AM  
**Status:** Published


I learned how eventhough there were many dangerous senarios at Woodstock everything for the most part worked in the end. People were there more than the music they were there living out their utopian socitey, where everyone looked out for each other. I thought it was nice getting Penny's perspective on how the people in charge of putting Woodstock together saw how the people that came to Woodstock were people that lived out thier differences of society in peace.

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

**Thread:** No Worries  
**Post:** No Worries  
**Author:**  Kelli  
**Posted Date:** November 24, 2014 11:05 PM  
**Status:** Published

The story Penny told of President Rush's wife represented the peaceful nature of the festival. When the younger brother went missing, Mrs. Rush and her husband knew that he would be alright. The story ended with the brother making it "back to camp" at the end of the festival, and I realized that it made perfect sense. Being there was about listening to music that promoted peace and enjoying life for what it is. The idea that everyone loved eachother helped reasure people that they would be safe there. It was peace, love and music and when that feeling and mentality is shared by hundreds of thousands of people, there really is nothing to worry about.

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

**Thread:** Penny of Woodstock  
**Post:** Penny of Woodstock  
**Author:**  Stephanie  
**Posted Date:** November 24, 2014 10:45 PM  
**Edited Date:** November 24, 2014 10:45 PM  
**Status:** Published

I never thought about how much time and effort went into planning a major event like this one. It's simple to just buy a ticket and show up to a music festival, but there's so much more to it. The organizers are the master minds behind the fun and excitement these music fans looked forward to and I view it as the most difficult job to have. Obviously, it's a challenge. Things go wrong and you have to act within seconds to resolve these issues. Although people have been trying to recreate Woodstock, those events will never live up to Woodstock's potential. I want to thank Penny for helping gain a better understanding on how important Woodstock was during the counterculture movement of the sixties.


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**Thread:** Penny

I think she was a really important character, on that special and unique event; being part of the staff that would organize and being involved on the leading of the event would really be a privilege. as she mentioned "lane" or the young humble man who really put the materialistic implications aside to present a gift for those who would seek a peaceful, harmony and humanitarian world, would really be an example of how Human kindness and community contribution would bring up a unique event in which profit and conflict would just be eradicated. due to the fact that there weren't really any kind of conflict or a tragedy within the massive crowd. they would actually enjoy and just experience a nice and fun moment. she got to mention that the only death victim was an accident but the father's reaction was reasonable and he understood that his son would enjoy at fullest on his last days. what is surprising and sad was that an event like that would never take place again, in her point of view she would see it difficult to organize another succesful Woodstock event, since economic interest and people are just business oriented. but that proved how a massive multitude could come up with a very organized and humanitarian oriented event that emphasized the peace, coexistence and in some instances show a perspective of people's liberty, away from materialistic implications and just enjoy life at fullest which is one of the most important aspects in everyones' lives.



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**Thread:** Penny Stallings  
**Post:** Penny Stallings  
**Author:**  **Roseannah Starkel**  
**Posted Date:** November 23, 2014 4:18 PM  
**Status:** Published


It was really great that you could come visit our class and tell us about your involmment with Woodstock. One thing you mentioned was something I had not yet considered. You talked about how nervous you were that something terrible could happen. You must have been so stressed out throughout the whole event hoping that things would go smoothly. You had talked about the electrical wiring that was all over the place and I cannot even imagine how scary it was when it started to rain. I think that all of the worrying must have been worth the thousands upon thousands of people having the best few days of their lives.

I was really inspired by how empowered you felt as a woman participating in organizing the event. It was so cool how you were able to take charge and stand up to men throughout your journey. You felt equal during a time of immense inequalitiy. One of the most amazing things about Woodstock was how everyone came together and treated one another with nothing but respect. Woodstock brought so many people together who believed in peace and love. It must feel really great to know you had such a big part in such a monumental day. I honeslty feel that Woodstock is nearly impossible to recreate. Nowadays, you cannot go to a concert without a fight breaking out or without paying a huge portion of money for a ticket. It was amazing that the organizers were not concerned at all about money; all they wanted was for everyone to come together in love and enjoy beautiful music. You had said that the event was a "human pit of potential disaster" and yet everyone came together and shared love and peace. I would do just about anything to go back in time and see Woodstock!

Thank you for sharing your story, Penny.



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**Thread:** Thanks to Penny  
**Post:** Thanks to Penny  
**Author:**  **Leonardo Berlon**  
**Posted Date:** November 20, 2014 10:36 AM  
**Status:** Published

Thanks to Penny I have been able to see Woodstock as more than just one of the 20th centuries first major concerts. Woodstock was created around a new form of culture consciousness that was arising within the country and was a place of new beginnings. For Penny alone, Woodstock helped her realize that anything a man can do, she could do to, while still maintaining her elegance. Woodstock was like a place where all the "happenings" going on within society, could come together and enjoy music that spoke to each and every individual that either participated in a happening or held similar grievances. Through Pennys altercation with the man that did not want her to set

something up (i dont remember), you can see influences of the womens movement upon young women and through individuals that attended the festival, you can see the influence of the student movements and of the civil rights movement, because everyones mind set was about how they could all help each other out. Festivals since then and to the present day have always tried to emulate the same society that Woodstock created for those 3 days, but every year be harder to do, because of the lack of influence we allow "happenings" to have on us.

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

**Thread:** Penny Stallings

**Post:** Penny Stallings

**Author:**  Lizette Nieto

**Posted Date:** November 20, 2014 10:00 AM

**Status:** Published

Thank you for gracing us with your presence last class. It was an honor to have had the opportunity to some insight of the origins of Woodstock. I myself admire and love the youth culture from the 1960's, so the discussions you brought in to our class were fascinating. Once again thank you and hope all is well.

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

**Thread:** Thank You

**Post:** Thank You

**Author:**  Alan Martin

**Posted Date:** November 20, 2014 1:52 AM

**Status:** Published

Like many others, I am thankful for your speaking with my class on Tuesday. It was especially fascinating to hear your perspective of events preceding Woodstock and it is funny to think that what is considered the most successful rock concert in history was put on by people with little or no experience! You were younger than me when you took part in the project, many people were and that also catches me off guard. I wonder if it seems strange to you as well, how young all of you were.

I don't believe that such an even could be put on today and it certainly would not be done in the same manner, with an untrained crew of enthusiastic young people leading the way. Most events of a similar kind, that is Burning Man, various Electronic Dance Music festivals and such are actually highly controlled and planned with paid and experienced staff/actors controlling many of the events. Numbers of attendees are strictly enforced, ticket prices are high and the events, even those taking place within the audience or grounds are often very organized and created to merely "appear" spontaneous. There is a science to being "hip" today, and a business as well, perhaps coming from lessons learned from Woodstock.


In other ways though, I could see it happening in the near future, or relatively near future. Internet and music cultures of today (inextricably linked at times) certainly encourage people to form highly specialized fan bases, sometimes around groups that are little known to outsiders, but these communities are themselves frequently supported through much larger frameworks. Music websites like Bandcamp and many others unite a younger generation, even as we diversify our tastes. Broader nets of communication could ultimately be used to gather large crowds of people with similar interests on the net, and there is the potential that should an event be created with a similar spirit as Woodstock, with a base of artists as broadly known and an audience that is passionate, that something magical could happen again.

My generation is less idealistic and more cynical, but we are also eager to grasp something, anything that seems "real." It is hard to say what or how, but perhaps we or a generation that comes after will find an answer. It probably won't solve the world's problems, but maybe it will unite us and give us something to hope and dream for. When that happens -probably leading the way- there will be music.

Thanks again for coming to our class and giving us your time


Alan

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**Thread:** Penny Stallings  
**Post:** Penny Stallings  
**Author:**  ~~Antonia Ida Marie Svensson~~  
**Posted Date:** November 19, 2014 10:34 PM  
**Edited Date:** November 19, 2014 10:34 PM  
**Status:** Published


Thank you very much for the lovely discussion about Woodstock. It was interesting to here about it not only from the standpoint of a spectator, but from someone who helped to organize it. I especially enjoyed hearing about the less-than-ideal aspects, such as rooming in a fire trap hotel, the ongoing fear of mass electrocutions, and the necessity of flying food and air in. Despite the difficulties, or perhaps because of them, the ability to have a three-day festival for 500,000 people who were just happy and peaceful and enjoying themselves together is an amazing accomplishment. It's the sort of thing I hope to see in my own time. I'm very grateful for your taking time out of your schedule to teach another generation about an oft-misunderstood but very important event.

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**Thread:** Thank you Penny Stallings!  
**Post:** Thank you Penny Stallings!  
**Author:**  ~~Kellen Smith~~  
**Posted Date:** November 19, 2014 8:56 PM  
**Status:** Published


It was amazing to be able to hear about Woodstock from someone who took part in helping it make it through the three days. I have seen the Woodstock movie in another class, so I decided in addition to watching the portion provided for class to also watch behind the music as well. I wanted to understand so much of what Woodstock brought to the youth and the counterculture occurring at the time. It was such an amazing feeling to think of what it would be like to be around during that time. The music was a wonderful inspiration to so many. It was a great discussion all around. I thought a great point Penny made was that something like that can never be repeated in concerts and venues now-a-days. You never would be able to get 500,000 people in one place without chaos and mayhem. Woodstock was meant for the time in which it happened. It was the right time, the right place and the right people involved that made it happen. Thank you Penny for an inspiring conversation.

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**Thread:** Woodstock Reflection  
**Post:** Woodstock Reflection  
**Author:**  ~~Jack Melano Fakim~~  
**Posted Date:** November 19, 2014 8:46 PM  
**Status:** Published


I learned that for some people, the Woodstock event really was just about the music. It did not have anything to do with drugs, peaceful protesting, or making a statement. They simply went to peacefully enjoy three days of music in an environment where everyone was at peace with everyone else. There was no need to worry, or have fear, or mistrust. You simply had to go and just relax. I had always thought that particular mindset was rare, if it existed at all. Yet as Penny told us, there was more to it than just a peace protest against Vietnam. It was about the music and the creation of a peaceful community. And by being a part of this you were someone who showed your support for universal brother/sisterhood. It really is a fantastic portion of history, and had I been alive at the time I would have done everything in my power to ensure my own attendance.

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

**Thread:** Thank you Penny!  
**Post:** Thank you Penny!  
**Author:**  **Natalie Small**  
**Posted Date:** November 19, 2014 8:33 PM  
**Edited Date:** November 19, 2014 8:33 PM  
**Status:** Published


I enjoyed her visit overall. I was surprised at how many "proper" youth like herself attended. I was also in shock that they weren't prepared for that many people with the food, but I love that those things made it Woodstock! I enjoyed hearing about her involvement and empowerment in Woodstock. It was nice to see things behind the scenes that happened while she was there. I honestly think she could write a book. She was such an interesting woman and for me personally I was waiting for her next story. Thank you Penny for coming!!!

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

**Thread:** Woodstock. Penny Stallings Thank You!  
**Post:** Woodstock. Penny Stallings Thank You!  
**Author:**  **Rachel Woss**  
**Posted Date:** November 19, 2014 7:37 PM  
**Status:** Published

I loved the lecture that Penny Stallings gave! I thought it was so exciting to hear someone speak about Woodstock who was actually at Woodstock and not only there, but helped make it possible. Amongst the chaos, love, peace, and hippie culture we got to hear firsthand experience of what went on behind the scenes which was amazing. I never thought about it, but we have a lot of festivals that try to recreate the feel of Woodstock, but like we talked about in the discussion, none have successfully done it. It was interesting to talk about why there hasn't been a successful recreation of Woodstock and I believe that it is because of the people in today's era. I wish I was able to attend Woodstock so having Penny Stallings here made it possible to get a more vivid picture than any documentary can give us. She also told us information that isn't as well known to the public and gave us her personal opinion on the whole festival. I learned a lot and got the opportunity to think about Woodstock in a new way! Thank you so much! I adored every minute of it!

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**Thread:** Thank You Penny Stallings  
**Post:** Thank You Penny Stallings  
**Author:**  **Laura Geske**  
**Posted Date:** November 19, 2014 5:08 PM  
**Status:** Published

Laura Geske

English 430: Tradition and Transformation


Instructors: Frank Barajas and Joan Peters

November 19, 2014




Penny Stallings lecture was very informative. The film did a good job showing the scale of the event, but Penny helped to give me an idea of how it was like putting it together. Penny had great insight into how hectic the event was and how terrifying it was that something could go wrong. With so many people there it is amazing how lucky they were that only one person died. Penny explained that the fact that they had such success as due to how well behaved the children were. This notion was so different than the image I normally have about Woodstock, which is about wild crazy kids who just want to party. I probably got that image due to the fact that I was raised in a very conservative home. It was nice to hear how it was really like from someone who was there. It amazes me that this whole event was organized by kids my age. It gives be a greater appreciation for what they did. I know that I would have never been able to pull off something of that magnitude. The fact that no one has been able to replicate the success of Woodstock gives greater props to the people who organized the event. Woodstock was an important event and shaped a lot of our future actions and events. Thank you Penny for your part in the event and for coming to tell us about it.

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

**Thread:** To Penny Stallings: Thank You  
**Post:** To Penny Stallings: Thank You  
**Author:**  **Kyle Anderson**  
**Posted Date:** November 19, 2014 3:39 PM  
**Status:** Published

Before coming to class to hear your perspective of Woodstock I had written it off internally as relatively trivial in the face of the subject matter this class has become accustomed to (Civil Rights, Vietnam, the anti-war movement, Black Panthers, the Chicano movement, feminism, etc.) I knew that Woodstock was culturally significant but not much else. In showing us how it has not and possibly could not happen again, I now see how much I underestimated the cultural signifigance of Woodstock. The fact that the festival lived up to it's ideals of peace, love, and music is utterly astounding. That people could attend free from worry of violence, theft, assault, etc is something I cannot fathom. Even more amazing is that nearly half a million people lived up to this creed for three days. I profusely apologize for ever tthinking Woodstock was not worth studying and thank you from the bottom of my heart for showing me otherwise.

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

**Thread:** Penny Stallings And Jane Lynch-Rush  
**Post:** Penny Stallings And Jane Lynch-Rush  
**Author:**  **Mark Rivera**  
**Posted Date:** November 19, 2014 1:20 PM  
**Status:** Published

Thank you,

Your presentation was interesting. I thought it added a little more to the reserves, other documentaries we watched, and the other peers personal readings or insights of the event. Woodstock's Three Day Event of Peace, Music and as you said, "love" exemplified the American Tradition along with the transformation of Music's affect amongst this demographic. The amazing organizing ability to gather collectively as hippies and young middle class "good kids" for the purpose of using peace and music to speak out against the major concerns of Americans at home and abroad particularly when the matters of American concerns were about anti war and other liberal discussions of the time.

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**Thread:** Thank You Penny

**Post:** Thank You Penny

**Author:**  Loren Hansen

**Posted Date:** November 19, 2014 11:01 AM

**Status:** Published

Dear Penny Stallings,

Thank you for coming to class and teaching us about the "behind the scenes," aspect of Woodstock that many individuals are not as privy to. The extent to which the festival was consistently only an electrical accident away from complete disaster was an aspect that I never really realized when it came to the film. Additionally, the politics of the time, especially the fact that many of the organizers of the festival were draft dodgers, was something that was clarified for me by the lecture.

One of the points of the lecture that I greatly enjoyed was the comparison of Woodstock to modern day festivals. As an adult, I have only been to two major festivals, both of which were EDM related. The first, I Love This City, was very much like the experience of going to a classical concert in the fact that there was ample seating and most people did get up except for during the major songs. In contrast, I went to Hard Summer in 2012, which had no seating and was relatively packed. Though many of the same artists played at both I Love This City and Hard Summer, the fact that Hard was located in a more "open air," venue really echoed the look and feel of Woodstock (though the sound quality during one of the acts at Hard Summer was awful). The vibe of the crowd also felt more connected, something that I have felt at only a couple of concerts in my lifetime. I wish that I brought up these festivals during the EDM part of the discussion we had.

Again, thank you for coming to our classroom and giving your unique perspective on what is probably the biggest modern festival ever.

Keep on truckin'

Loren Hansen

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

**Thread:** Penny is the mama of the crowd

**Post:** Penny is the mama of the crowd

**Author:**  Minh Nguyen

**Posted Date:** November 19, 2014 10:06 AM

**Edited Date:** November 19, 2014 10:06 AM

**Status:** Published

What I learned from the Woodstock film was that the people were so carefree and all they wanted was to have fun and be united with everyone who had the same idea of peace and antiwar during this time. I also learned that Penny Stallings was like the mom of the whole Woodstock experience, in which she was in charge of the food and other stuff, like overseeing the injured and the event. I thought it was nice that all the people who had attended Woodstock didn't care about gender rules and that they were like a one big family in the crowd of all the clutter. Food, water and

other problems had risen during the event but that didn't stop them from having a good time. I respect that.

I didn't really know that Woodstock would be called one of the first "raves" in America until I heard it myself. But now comparing it to my older sister's experience, the similarities are uncanny. The partying with loud music, the consumption of drugs and alcohol and just having a great time.

I really enjoyed the lecture in general and just listening to the Woodstock experience with my own ears seemed so unreal. I couldn't really picture Penny actually getting dirty in the mud with the other Woodstock people so it was a good face of reality. Penny's facial expression was interesting to see as August had asked about the cleanup of the Woodstock weekend. Like man, I think I would cry cleaning up the one foot pile of trash in the area.

One question had got me thinking though: in that short movie Penny had showed us in the beginning of class, was that the same area where Woodstock was at? If it was, dang man it looks beautiful.