Musical preferences, hours spent listening to music and ethnic differences

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Introduction

Various researchers have looked into music preferences and other factors. It can be posited that where a person grew up may influence their musical tastes, and that factors such as income, culture, or education can play a role. The current study explores the hypothesis that there may be a difference in musical preferences for hip-hop between African American and Caucasian students.

Methods

100 students were randomly selected from each ethnic group. The students were all between the ages of 18 and 23. Questionnaires were given to each student to assess their musical preferences. The instrument used was the Musical Mate Survey, which assesses musical preferences using a 1-5 scale.

Results

Hip-Hop vs. Rock: The means for students who preferred hip-hop were significantly higher than those who preferred rock. Specifically, the mean for hip-hop was 4.2 out of 5, while the mean for rock was 2.8 out of 5.

Rhythm & Music vs. Country: Students who preferred rhythm & music were significantly more likely to also prefer country music. Specifically, the mean for rhythm & music was 4.1 out of 5, while the mean for country was 3.6 out of 5.

Discussion

The most preferred genres were hip-hop and rhythm & music. This is consistent with previous research, which has identified these genres as being popular among young adults.

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Previous research has studied music preferences and personality. Music preferences have been found to correlate with some aspects of personality (Iwasaki & Morihisa, 2001) and demographic traits (Greenberg et al., 2002). More recently, researchers have explored the relationship between music preferences and various cultural factors (e.g., age, sex, race, and nationality). This study is unique in its focus on music preferences, including differences between Native Americans and Caucasians, and the time spent listening to music and ethnicity.

Method
Participants
Participants were 56 undergraduate students. The preferred musical ethnic groups were African American, Hispanic, Caucasian, and Native American. The students were selected from a university in the southeastern United States. 84% of the participants were female. The average age of the participants was 19.8 years (SD = 6.3). The majority of participants were students in the College of Liberal Arts (60%) or the College of Business (20%).

Results
Ethnicity Differences
In this study, there were significant differences between African American and Caucasian participants' musical preferences. The preferred musical genre was Rap/Hip-Hop for African Americans and Classical for Caucasians. The preferred musical genre for Native Americans was Country and for Hispanic participants, it was Rock. The number of hours spent listening to music also varied significantly between the different ethnic groups. For example, African American participants spent more hours listening to Hip-Hop music than Caucasian participants.

Discussion
The results of this study suggest that music preferences are influenced by ethnicity. This finding is consistent with previous research (Collins, 2000) that found a correlation between music preferences and ethnicity. The findings also indicate that music preferences may be used as a tool for understanding cultural differences and may provide insights into the development of music education programs.

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