

Music and identity follow-up: Give an example of a sound that a musician makes that can communicate who they are (i.e., their identity) – November 28/22, 2017

What they say

They can sing about their life and that will tell us a lot about them.

What a musician says in their music or by starting off their songs in a particular way that lets the listener know who's playing. Most rappers today start off their songs by giving their stage name and a brief background of themselves.

The sound of their voice

An accent to their voice

An example of a sound that a musician makes that can communicate who they are is how they present their pitch. A high pitch is usually female while a low pitch is male.

A rough and dark sound can let a listener know that this person experienced a tough life, like Robert Johnson, whose voice had a rough and melancholy sound.

Sound effects or sound quality

Lil' Wayne always sparks a blunt to show he's lyrically inclined when high. So whenever you hear a spark and an inhale on the mic you know you're getting a Weezy verse on the song.

A lo-fi recording can reflect whether the artist has money or not to record in a higher quality

Musical style

A musician can use instruments native to their home country to stake a claim or make their identity known by showing that this sound is a part of their culture and therefore an integral part of their history/identity.

The swing that trumpet/trombone layers use in jazz

By using their favorite instrument and style