**The History and Future of Remix Culture**

**Appropriation (in the arts)**

* The adoption, borrowing, or theft of elements of one culture by another culture.
* Taking over another culture’s style or way of expressing itself for your own purposes.
* Taking something created by another person and making it “your own.”

**Some examples of modes of appropriation in pop music**

**Imitation, style borrowing**

A person models their performance or songwriting style on another person’s style.

Members of one culture adopt or adapt the style of another culture.

(e.g. Elvis and black rock and roll; Lady Gaga and Madonna)

**Plagiarism**

Someone steals someone else’s song or music and doesn’t give credit or pay royalties.

**Recontextualization/decontextualization**

Someone uses someone’s song or music in a context for which it was never intended – movie soundtrack, video game, advertisement, etc (using a protest song in a commercial for a bank, for instance)

**Cover version**

Someone (usually legally) does their own version of someone else’s song.

**Parody**

Someone (most often legally) does a cover of or copies the style of a song to make fun of it.

**Medley**

Someone combines *covers* of two or more songs into a single musical piece.

**Remix**

Someone (usually legally) remixes the elements of someone’s song to create a new variation– originally and still typically an extended dance track.

**Sampling**

Someone uses part of somebody else’s *recording* as part of their own song [accompaniment, chorus, rhythm track, etc]

**Mashup**

Someone takes two or more songs by different artists – maybe people who would never willingly be part of one another’s music – and creates a new song based entirely on these source songs

**Why might you use someone else’s creation in your own creation?**

* Homage
* Plagiarism
* Critique