

The Harmony Of Studying: Parkland Students' Favorite Music to Study By

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Introduction

Hello, I'm Aaron McCartney and my research looked at how Parkland College students use music to help them study or do homework. Music is really important to me and I enjoy listening to it while I work. For this project, I looked at how music is used by students to aid their studies.

Project Aim

My aim is to research what music Parkland students listen to when they study and to see if there is a preferred music genre. I also looked for stylistic similarities between the music genres most frequently chosen by students to aid their studies.

Questions Asked

- What genre of music do you listen to most while you study?
- Does it have lyrics?
- Is the song loud or quiet?
- Why did you choose this type of music?
- Do you always listen to music when you study?
- Are there specific locations where you listen to music while studying and others where you do not?

Methods

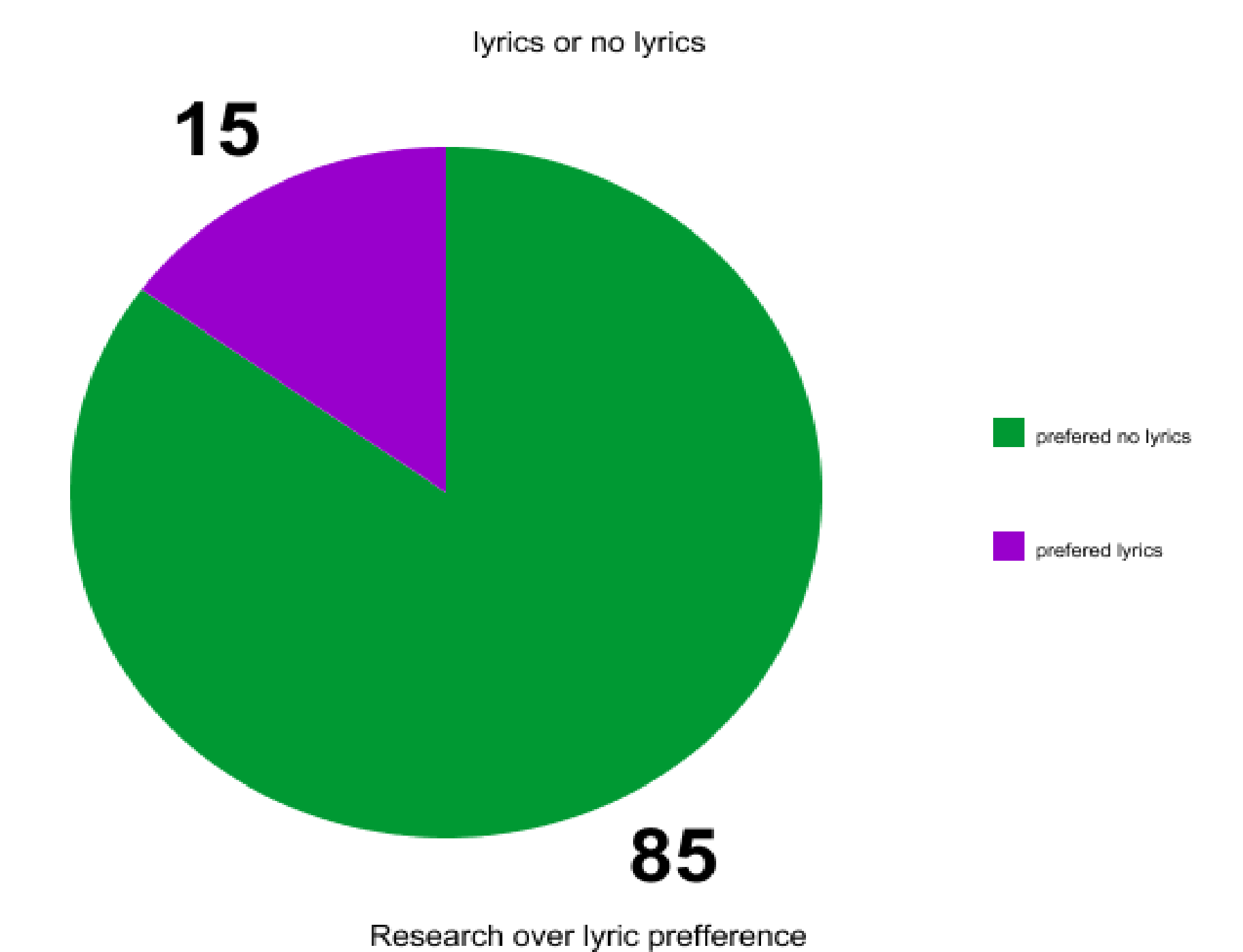
- I visited common study spaces around Parkland College (i.e., the library, hallways, and other study nooks) to locate students listening to music while studying. Before I approached anyone, I did a quick count of the number of students who appeared to be listening to music (based on the fact that they were wearing headphones) and the number who appeared to be studying without the aid of music. I approached some of the students wearing headphones and asked them if they would be willing to answer a few questions.
- I recorded their responses to my interview questions and then analyzed this data to see if I could spot any common themes.
- I limited my interviews to Parkland students.



Parkland College Library

Results

4/5ths of the students interviewed listen to music on a regular basis to help them study both when studying at Parkland and when studying elsewhere.



They generally preferred it without lyrics so that the music would not distract them while doing homework.

With respect to the 44 students I observed studying in the Parkland library, 16 (or roughly 36%) were listening to music while studying or doing homework.

The majority of my interviewees preferred to listen to music:

1. that was instrumental;
2. that was upbeat; or
3. that was slow