MAKING THE CONNECTION:

- Music producers are an essential part of the music industry. They are the behind the scenes leaders of the music world and in some cases they are not even behind the scenes anymore.

- The music producer’s job has changed and evolved over time. Prior to the rise of DAWs (Digital Audio Workstations) music producers were responsible for the following:
  - The overall direction of a project (or album)
  - General organizing of a project
    - Song selection
    - Selecting songwriters and musicians
    - Selecting recording studios to work at
    - Selecting the audio engineers
    - Selecting arrangers and orchestrators

- With the rise of home studios and the continued accessibility and ease of use of DAWs, the music producer’s role has changed. Currently, music producers are now required to do a lot more of the heavy lifting than ever before. In addition to the typical music producer role, today’s music producer also does the following:
  - Work in a DAW to create backing tracks as needed
  - Recording engineers. Music producers now engineer a good portion of the music they produce. Especially in the genres of pop and hip hop, many times the producer can record the entire project in their bedroom. For example, take a look at Billie Eilish’s brother Finneas who recorded her debut album in his bedroom.
  - Vocal production and tuning. Typically, this would be a recording engineers job, however, most music producers now spend the time tuning vocals as well as helping the vocalist/artist phrase melodies.
  - Mixing and Mastering. These are the final stages of the recording process. While not every music producer does this, many can and will do this.

- Music producers used to always work behind the scenes, nowadays, some producers are the artist. When dubstep producers exploded onto the pop scene with collaborations with major artist, the DJ/Producer/Artist was born.
  - Producers such as Skrillex and Diplo began headlining records and forming groups like Jack U. DJ/Producers such as David Guetta, Zedd, and Avicii became major players in the pop world. This new breed of music producer now does all of the music production AND is the artist. Touring around the world and creating their brand, this new music producer is the total package.
BECOMING A MUSIC PRODUCER

SAMPLE HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS:

• What skills do you think would be important for a music producer to possess?
  o Great computer skills
  o Excellent communication skills in having to work with songwriters and artists
  o Great organization skills
    ▪ Booking musicians
    ▪ Organizing production calendar
    ▪ Making sure recording sessions are organized

• What are the first steps you should take to learn how to become a music producer?
  o Learn how to use a DAW
  o Listen and study music by your favorite artists and find out who the producer was. Then try and emulate the sound
  o Learn as much about music as you can.
    ▪ Theory
    ▪ An instrument
  o Learn what type of gear a producer uses
    ▪ Computer
    ▪ DAWs
    ▪ Microphones
    ▪ Studio monitors
    ▪ Plugins

• Name some of the most famous music producers and tell us which albums they produced and why you like them.