Capstone Album Rubric

Uniqueness:

How different is the song from other songs within its genre? Are there unique aspects that make it innovative and give it the ability to stand out amongst other songs on the radio? This should show use of abnormal melodies, a variance in the chord structure, odd instruments, interesting lyrics, unusual solos, or even modulations.

4pt: Song demonstrates uniqueness and diversity-- doesn't directly resemble preexisting famous songs, incorporates at least one of the things listed above.
3pt: Song demonstrates uniqueness and diversity-- doesn't directly resemble preexisting famous songs, fails to incorporate one of the things listed above.
2pt: Song lacks much uniqueness but has some attributes that allow it to stick out slightly amongst other songs, and fails to incorporate one of the things listed above.
1pt: Song is very bland and doesn't stray from the norm in any way, but still resembles an original idea.
0pt: Song sounds like a copy of an existing song.

Length:

Is the song a reasonable length? Typical songs these days are around 2-4 minutes. Does it fit within this range? Is it longer or shorter? Keep in mind the prime length of each individual song to maximize its impact. Could a different length or added/removed section have made this song better?

1pt: Song is within the given time range or is given the most suitable length for the specific song.
0pt: Song is outside of the range and is far too long/short for what it should be.

Chorus:

Can you tell that the chorus is a chorus? Is it the strongest part of the song? Does the melody vary from the verses significantly? The chorus should provide an accurate representation of the song as a whole and should be memorable. Does it have a tagline in it that is easy to catch onto?
2pt: Chorus stands out, hooks the listener, is noticeably different from the verses, and is easy to remember after listening.
1pt: Chorus stands out and is noticeably different from the verses, but doesn’t hook the listener and give them something to remember after they finish hearing the song.
0pt: Chorus is boring, feels like a verse and is not memorable.

Structure:

How well is the song structured? Does it have the necessary pieces to qualify as a whole song or is it like an incomplete sentence? Does it have at least 2 verses and 2 choruses? How well do the verses align with one another, would verse 2 ever be mistaken for a bridge?

4pt: The song perfectly follows a noticeable structure with at least 2 verses and 2 choruses and doesn’t confuse the listener.
3pt: The song has a noticeable structure with at least 2 verses and 2 choruses, but transitions may be slightly flawed.
2pt: The song is missing a verse or chorus that would make it feel more complete, but has all the necessary components of a song.
1pt: Unclear as to what part of the song it is and is missing parts, but still has a bit of a pattern to it.
0pt: There is zero structure to the song and it is an absolute disaster.

Lyrics:

Can the lyrics be read from top to bottom as a poetic story in the form of a song? How accurately do the lyrics align with the overarching theme of the album and the storyline as a whole? Are literary devices used as necessary in order to make the lyrics more appealing to the listener? Are the words an important addition to the song or would it be better as an instrumental? (For classical piece/interlude, grade this section as the dynamics and how important they are/how well they are incorporated)

4pt: Lyrics read as a poetic story in the form of a song, matches the title, theme and storyline of the album, incorporates intriguing lyrics that are a critical part of the song.
3pt: Lyrics are fitting for the song and match with the rest of the album, but don’t tell a story.
2pt: Lyrics frequently stray from the overarching theme, but line up overall and have a place in the song.
1pt: Song would have functioned better as an instrumental-- lyrics still match the idea of the album.
0pt: Song would have functioned better as an instrumental-- lyrics don’t make any sense for the given song and don’t have anything to do with the rest of the album.

Total Possible 15pt