Research Questions

• How does Bob Dylan compare to other artists?
• How do visuals affect the lyrics of songs?
• How do other artists portray themselves during this period?
• How do people frame their own identities?

Series of Identities: Bob Dylan in the 1980s
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Analysis

• It was important to look at all of the music videos that Bob Dylan recorded for his songs of the 1980s, then compare them to several music videos that were released around the same time.
• Dylan’s videos were very different from other popular artists.
• Videos from popular artists tended to reflect and enhance the lyrics by adding a visual element.
• Dylan’s videos actually tended to change the meaning of the lyrics with the addition of these visuals.

Conclusions

• Dylan’s music videos tell a story, but do not reflect the lyrics the way other songs do.
• The videos demonstrate that Dylan is not interested in mainstream, traditional norms, but instead creating his own identity based around his own desires.
• These videos reflect Dylan’s abstract identity and his desire for the public to be continuously confounded by him.
• We are able to see his different identities through these videos in addition to his lyrics.

Relevance

• Observing Dylan’s music videos, we are able to experience his visual imagery. Dylan is seen as being a poet with his lyrics, but by looking at his music videos, we can see he is unique with his visuals too.
• It is important to study artists like Dylan because he allows us to learn about identity and how it shapes people.