

Handout 1 - 1984 Rolling Stone Excerpt

Excerpt from “Heavy Metal Rears Its Ugly Head Again, Deborah Frost, *Rolling Stone*, 27 September 1984

“It’s back, just when the world was supposed to be...ready at last for *smart* music, what should rear its leather-clad, lipstick-smearing image on the nation’s TV tubes but...heavy metal. Nastier, noisier and more popular than ever, heavy metal is with us once again. But why?

What mainly did the trick was MTV. Suddenly, rock’s most extreme fantasy genre looked bigger, brighter, more *fantastic* than ever before. In color! *In your living room!* MTV instigated a profound change. Where pioneers such as Led Zeppelin had earnest musical aims...current heavyweights like Quiet Riot and Motley Crue are really only concerned with *presenting the fantasy*. And MTV is in the fantasy business.”

Look at the Image 1, Motley Crue in 1982 and Image 2, Poison in 1986.



Motley Crue



Poison

With your group, discuss the following questions and be prepared to share your answers with the class. You may find that some images don’t fit neatly into either category, or that you disagree regarding where they should fit. Put these images in the middle.

- Make a list of the ways in which Motley Crue and Poison might demonstrate a later version of the “radicalized masculinity” discussed in the previous clip?
- Using a blank sheet of paper, make a T Chart on which one side represents “masculine” and the other “feminine.” Study these two images closely and try to file as much of the imagery as possible by the gender you think it might represent (hair, clothes, faces, jewelry, etc).