Advances in technology altered modern warfare in many respects, including the availability of entertainment for American servicemen and women overseas. Although entertainers visited European battle zones during World War I, “Camp Shows” began during World War II and were first created in 1941 by the USO (United Service Organizations for National Defense, Inc.). Hollywood personalities such as Bing Crosby and Lena Horne toured training camps in the U.S., as well as war zones in Europe and elsewhere. Music had the power to provide some relief from the horrors of war. Some of the music from the World War II era continues to be revised and sung by artists today.

Song Analysis

Title: ________________________________________________________________

Publishing Date: _______________________________________________________

Composer: _____________________________________________________________

Artist Who Popularized it in WWII: _________________________________________

1. What historical or geographic references are found in this song? Research these words to gain a clear understanding of the song’s meaning (for example: “White Cliffs of Dover” refers to the southern coast of England, near the town of Dover; the cliffs are visible from the English Channel)

2. What is the mood of this song? Explain.

3. To whom is the song directed? How do you know?

4. What images do the lyrics evoke? Consider both images of the war and of the future.

5. What is the effect on the listener?

6. Why do you think this song was popular during World War II?

7. Compare the lyrics, images, and musical style of this song with those from a more recent American war (Vietnam or Desert Storm, for example) List similarities and differences. Discuss possible conclusions.