Though written during a turbulent time in the United States (1964), Simon and Garfunkel’s song, “The Sounds of Silence” shows how little we have progressed as a country and how quite possibly our man-made possessions have caused a regression of sorts. The lyrics remind us that even in 2017, we neglect life; destruction from within. Clearly, the neon god that Simon and Garfunkel speak of represents the most important image in the song.

Most importantly, the image depicting worship to a false idol represents the ugly truth of what our society values most. The lines “the people bowed and prayed to the neon god they made” (29-30) depict a society in which our manmade versions of life have become more important than living life itself. In other words, people have become mere shells of the true self, where distractions of technology create masks that shield true identities, society has made us cookie-cutter planet where everyone is emulating and one-upping everyone else: “ten thousand people maybe more” (line 17) needing wanting the next best material possession.

Disappointingly so, technology comes before family, even at the dining room table in the security of home! Families talking without speaking, hearing without listening, writing songs they will never share (lines 18-20). Cellphones and IPADS are converging with no-one/“followers” rather than the shared DNA sitting right in front of them. Neon gods have created a society based on superficiality and divisibility, where one ever really knows, or cares for that matter, about anyone else. Since no one cares enough to lift their heads and speak up or listen up, their masks of conformity remain, trapping them within the silence.

“The Sounds of Silence” has a message for each and every one of us. It is important to remember everyday that silence and conformity can be dangerous. Though it takes courage, we need to accept and like who we are.
Time to work on elaboration. . .

“talk-aboutss”
Intro-rough: Though written during a turbulent time in the United States (1964), Simon and Garfunkel’s song, “The Sounds of Silence” shows how little we have progressed as a country and how quite possibly our man-made possessions have caused a regressions of sorts. The lyrics remind us that even in 2018, we neglect living by remaining silently affixed: destruction from within. Clearly then, the neon god that Simon and Garfunkel speak of represents the most important image in the song.

Textual evidence from song

Explanation of evidence (made me think, feel, imagine)

Personal Example/Relates to society today

“.........” (#).

How does the quote relate to your idea? Why is it important? Explain/elaborate/tell me more’s

Example and how it relates to image/“SOS”

Example and how it relates to image/“SOS”

Create 2 elaboration maps, one for each quote you use as support.

PLEASE, DO NOT USE COMPLETE SENTENCES
Intro-rough: Though written during a turbulent time in the United States (1964), Simon and Garfunkel’s song, “The Sounds of Silence” shows how little we have progressed as a country and how quite possibly our man-made possessions have caused a regressions of sorts. The lyrics remind us that even in 2017, we neglect living by remaining silently affixed: destruction from within. Clearly then, the neon god that Simon and Garfunkel speak of represents the most important image in the song. 

Textual evidence from song

“the people bowed and prayed to the neon god they made” (29-30)

Explanation of evidence (made me think, feel, imagine)

manmade versions of ‘life’ have become more important

people have become mere shells

Personal Example/Relates to society today

distractions of technology create masks

cookie-cutter planet, emulating and one-upping

Elaboration Map #1 of 2

PLEASE, DO NOT USE COMPLETE SENTENCES
Intro-rough: Though written during a turbulent time in the United States (1964), Simon and Garfunkel’s song, “The Sounds of Silence” shows how little we have progressed as a country and how quite possibly our man-made possessions have caused a regressions of sorts. The lyrics remind us that even in 2017, we neglect living by remaining silently affixed: destruction from within. Clearly then, the neon god that Simon and Garfunkel speak of represents the most important image in the song.

because . . .

Image

represents _______

Textual evidence from song

Explanation of evidence (made me think, feel, imagine)

Personal Example/Relates to society today

" .........." (#).

it made me feel/ remember

How does the quote relate to your idea?

Example and how it relates to image/ “SOS”

Example and how it relates to image/ “SOS”

Closing Paragraph:
Intro-rough: Though written during a turbulent time in the United States (1964), Simon and Garfunkel’s song, “The Sounds of Silence” shows how little we have progressed as a country and how quite possibly our man-made possessions have caused a regressions of sorts. The lyrics remind us that even in 2017, we neglect living by remaining silently affixed: destruction from within. Clearly then, the neon god that Simon and Garfunkel speak of represents the most important image in the song.

Textual evidence from song:
- Talking without speaking, hearing without listening, writing songs they will never share (18-20).

Explanation of evidence (made me think, feel, imagine):
- Apathy, only concerned with self instead of others.
- Technology comes before family.

Relate image to society/current event:
- Cellphones and IPADS are affixed to craniums.
- A society based on superficiality and divisibility.
- "followers" rather than the shared DNA.
- Masks of conformity trap them.

because . . .

Elaboration Map #2/2

SAMPLE

10,000+ people obeying & worshipping the neon god
represents the ugly truth

Closing Paragraph