What are theories? General and logical explanations of some phenomenon
When you think of theories think “process.” When you specify a theory look at it for a moment to see if it has some statement of process in it. i.e., How is variable A related to variable B?

Theories are made up of assumptions
Some assumptions are “self-evident” while others need confirmation.
From a set of “reasonable” assumptions we are able to derive “testable” hypotheses

Music Theory

The type of music that a person enjoys is a function of the geographical region and the culture of that region.

We need to explain how differences in regions (and cultures) affect differences in music taste.

Steps needed to specify my theory:

1. The geographical region can either mean the directional region of the country (i.e., East, Midwest, South, Southwest, West), or it could be a localized region such as urban, rural, or suburban area.

2. Associated with each region is a particular culture (i.e., each region has a distinct culture.) One component of culture is music.

3. Hence, within each region a particular type of music prevails and that type of music is heard more often.

4. Since, people hear a particular type of music more often within their region (especially in a child’s early developmental stage), they tend to like it more.

5. Consequently, the particular music of a region influence a person’s taste in music.

What are the assumptions in my theory?:

I. Different regions have different cultures
II. Music is a part of culture
III. The more often you listen to a particular type of music the more you like it
IV. You are influenced by music at an early age

Basic hypothesis derived from assumptions:
Region and subsequent cultural differences influences music taste

Are these assumptions true?

I. This is probably true. You can point to examples how unique regions have unique

We would need to provide a citation to support this claim

II. Obvious so no need to prove it. Culture encompasses many things. It is reasonable to assume music is one factor.

III. This could be true or not. There are cases where you might hear classical music as a kid and grow to love it. There are also cases where you hear a particular type of music so much you get sick of it (e.g., me and Motown)

We would need to provide a citation to support this claim

IV. This is probably false. As you grow older you have different experiences in your life that changes your taste in music (i.e., you are exposed more to the world). Also as you become more mature your taste in music changes (liked Britney Spears at age 13).

We would need to provide a citation to support this claim

Now we can add more details to our theory. 1st we can posit what types of music are prevalent in certain regions:

Country — south, rural
Classical – East coast
Broadway – East Coast
Heavy metal/rock/pop – ? How do you classify?
Rap/R&B/jazz – urban
Zydeco/Cajun - Louisiana
Alternative Rock – College (region?)
World beat...(?)

Once we prove our assumptions are reasonable then we can derive our testable hypotheses. The following are possible hypotheses we can derive. Notice that I only selected music that I was certain of:

H₁: People from rural areas will tend to like country music more.
H₂: People from the South will tend to like country music more.
H₃: People from the East will tend to like Broadway musicals more.
H₄: People from urban areas will tend to like rap music more.
Etc.

Notice that we are not testing our complete theory. The only thing we are testing is that different regions tend to like different types of music.

We have ignored testing whether an individual is influenced by music at an early age or the more you listen the more you like a particular type of music. Although not tested they are critical for our theory. It explains why people enjoy different types of music given the different regions they live in. We have sources to verify this so no need to test it.