

## Modern Day Protest Music

**Step 1:** Choose ONE of the songs below OR choose another song that's a good modern example of a protest song.

**Step 2:** Google the lyrics & listen to the song.

**Step 3:** Research the meaning of the song and the time period when it was written.

(NOTE: There's a note sheet at the back of this packet with the info you need.)

- = FIRST reading up on the meaning of the song itself (good introductory information and the lyrics of many songs can be found at [www.songfacts.com](http://www.songfacts.com))
- = THEN search for background info on the singer. (VH1 and the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame have biographical information on most performers on their sites. Otherwise, check out *Rolling Stone* magazine or Pop Culture Universe.)

**Step 4:** Create a Google slideshow & share it with Ms. Shen or upload it into Google Classroom.

Your slideshow should include the following information:

- = **Slide 1: cover page** (title of song, name of artist and 1 picture)
- = **Slide 2: details on the singer**
  - o Select 5 significant events in the artist's life that explain why they became a "protest" artist. (Include at least 1 picture)
- = **Slide 3: details on the time when the song was made**
  - o What was going on in society that inspired the artist to write this song? (Include 2 pictures that relate to the events you're talking about)
- = **Slide 4: song title and music video**
- = **Slide 5: lyrics**
  - o Include 2-3 key verses (choose ones that you think are good examples of the song's protest message) (Include at least 1 picture that goes with those lyrics)
- = **Slide 6: analysis of the song**
  - o What do you think the song means? What is the artist trying to say with the lyrics/video? (Include at least 1 picture)
- = **Slide 7: bibliography** – cite text sources only

## Songs

Michael Jackson, "Earth Song"

Public Enemy, "Fight the Power"

Rage Against the Machine, "Killing in the Name," "Know Your Enemy"

Dixie Chicks, "Not Ready to Make Nice"

NWA, "F\*ck the Police"

Lauryn Hill, "Black Rage"

Bruce Springsteen, "Born in the USA",  
"American Skin", "The Rising", "We Take  
Care of Our Own"

Sage Francis, "Makeshift Patriot"

Tim McGraw, "Southern Voices"

Green Day, "Wake Me Up When September  
Ends", "21 Guns"

Lupe Fiasco, "Around My Way"

Tupac, "Changes"

Naz & Lauryn Hill, "If I Ruled the World"

U2, "Sunday, Bloody Sunday"

Linkin Park, "Hands Held High"

Neil Young, "Let's Impeach the President"

Kendrick Lamar, "The Blacker the Berry", "I"

21 Savages, "Nothin' New"

Hozier, "Take Me to Church"

D'Angelo, "The Charade"

Lily Allen, "Hard Out Here", "F\*ck You"

Bob Marley, "Get Up, Stand Up"

J. Cole, "Be Free"

Andra Day, "Rise Up"

Pharrell Williams, "Runnin'"

K'naan, "Immigrants (We Get the Job Done)"

Pink, "Dear Mr. President"

Dead Prez, "Stars and Stripes of Corruption"

John Legend, "Glory"

Eminem, "Untouchable," "Like Home"

Joey Bada\$\$, "For My People"

Logic, "1-800-273-8255"

Against Me!, "Transgender Dysphoria Blues"

Beyonce, "Freedom"

<b>NOTES ON THE SONG</b>
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- 1. Background info on the singer**
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 2. Why they became a "protest" artist**
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 3. What was going on that inspired the artist to write this song?**
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 4. Lyrics -**
  - a. What are they talking about?**
  - b. What do the lyrics mean?**
  - c. Pick 2-3 verses to specifically analyze and find meaning in. (Include them in your notes)**
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 5. Music video (if there is one) - what does it show/talk about? What do you learn from the video? What's the tone?**