

Music With a Message – Protest Music

I. Music has always been a form of expression.

II. EXAMPLE: Childish Gambino, “This is America”

a. What are some of the topics Childish Gambino raises in his song/video? (LIST)

b. What makes this song/video an example of protest? _____

III. What is a protest song? (DEFINE) _____

IV. What types of events inspired protest music in the 20th century? (LIST)

V. **Protest songs in the 1960s** were inspired by _____

a. Examples: “Blowin’ in the Wind,” “War (What is it Good For?),” “Fortunate Son.”

VI. **Protest songs in the 1970s & 1980s:**

a. Protest songs in the 1970s & 1980s focused on _____

b. Examples: Marvin Gaye, "What's Going On?" and "Inner City Blues," Aretha Franklin, "Respect," Grandmaster Flash, "The Message."

VII. **Protest Music in the 21st Century:**

"Alright," Kendrick Lamar (inspired by the murder of black teens at the hands of white police officers.)

a. Why did the protesters at Ferguson choose NOT to sing the more 1960s song "We Shall Overcome" and instead adopted Lamar's "Alright"?

b. How do the song/lyrics express the feelings of people who were protesting the deaths of Michael Brown, Eric Garner, and others?

c. How might chanting this song be helpful for protesters? How does it unite people?
