Lyrical Analysis – Finding the Meaning

Write and Discuss:
Why do you listen to music? How does music make you feel? Does music serve a different role in your life depending on your mood, who you are with or what you are doing? Does music ever cause you to think differently, to feel a part of something larger or to want to rise up and take action?

Then, respond to this quotation by Dr. Aileen Dillane, senior lecturer of musicology in the University of Limerick:
“They can be songs that have simple repetitive melodies and lyrics that have a very particular message to the government or an institution to say that something needs to change.”

“For example, at the Women’s March in the US, they had song called ‘Quiet’ that was circulated beforehand that people learned online in a forum, then they all sang in solidarity…but then you can have songs that offer social commentary that is incisive, or more metaphorical.”

Do you agree? Disagree? Why?

Listen and Annotate:
Next, listen to _____, a song from the time period we are studying, while reading along with the printed lyrics. As you listen, annotate by underlining, highlighting, or writing in the margins, reacting or responding to anything in the lyrics or in the music itself. (You may want to play the song a second time, if it would be helpful.)

Discuss:
- What did you notice in the song as you listened?
- How did it make you feel?
- What did it make you think about?
- What did you hear that makes you say that?
- What more can you find?

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1. Explain to students that they will be doing an independent study in which they will focus on interpreting lyrics from various songs.
2. Ask students to choose three contemporary song which may be from the same or varying genres. Share the Capture Sheet: Messages in Music
3. Share the resource, *Music Genre Research Topics*, with students to help them generate ideas for their research. Students can explore music from other cultures and countries, or more obscure ethnomusicological selections.
4. Once students have completed their research, have them create visual representations of the songs and the relevant cultural and historical information about each of the songs they have researched.
5. Have students share their art forms with the class, demonstrating what they synthesized about the relationship between music and the visual arts.

Message in The Music Template

Song	Genre	Artist	Message

Research Project: Learning From Lyrics

Directions: Select and research the lyrics of a song. Analyse the theme, issue, point of view, and facts from the song.

Song:
Artist:
Release Date:
Subject Matter:
Issue/Event/Person Being Addressed:
Singer's/Writer's Point of View:
Research this issue/event/person and list relevant information: