**Arguments in Music: Social Message Musical Mediums**

AP English III (Carrington)

**Learning Goals:**

* Cite textual evidence to support analysis of ideas
* Determine theme/central idea of a text and analyze its development
* Analyze how an author’s ideas and claims are developed
* Determine and analyze point of view and cultural perspective
* Write informative/explanatory texts to skillfully examine and convey complex ideas
* Conduct short research to answer questions
* Draw evidence from literary and informational texts to support analysis
* Gather relevant, credible, and helpful information from multiple authoritative sources to integrate into a written essay without plagiarizing.

**Assignment Description:**

For decades—perhaps even centuries—artists have used music as a means for expressing their thoughts and opinions. Whereas some musicians today may be primarily concerned with creating music that is sure to attain commercial success, many musicians produce music that contains meaningful messages. Through music, artists have protested wars, oppression, sexism, racism, and so much more. Now, it’s time for you to set out to uncover these very songs and conduct an in-depth analysis of your own. As a part of this assignment, you will be charged with doing five things:

1. Identifying a song from the past 50-60 years (1950 and beyond) that contains a social message or criticism.
2. Conduct small-scale research to uncover the context that contributed to the development of the text (the song) and the message within it (e.g., when it was written, what was happening before/while the song was written, etc.)
3. Analyze the specific rhetorical strategies the artist uses within the song (you will need to a print copy of the lyrics and annotate).
4. Write an analytical essay in which you share your findings.
5. Design new album artwork for the song.

**Requirements**:

* Essay must not exceed three (3) typed pages.
* Essay must be formatted in MLA format (e.g., 1” margins, 12-pt. Times New Roman font, etc.)
* All outside sources must be cited appropriately (in-text citations and works cited entries)

**Due Dates**:

* Date: All students should come to class with a printed copy of the lyrics for a song they found that contains a social message. The lyrics should be properly annotated.
* Date: After deciding which song to use for this assignment, students will then conduct some preliminary research to gather information about the “context” surrounding the song. Students must submit evidence of their research on this date. Evidence could come in the form of notecards, annotated printouts, etc.
* Rough Draft: