

# Multi Cultural Lesson - Write a Protest Song

by Glen DeGeorge

## Grade Level

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9th Grade

## Long Range Goals/Standards

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### Standards

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**MENC.9-12.4** CONTENT STANDARD: Composing and arranging music within specified guidelines

**MENC.9-12.7** CONTENT STANDARD: Evaluating music and music performances

**MENC.9-12.9** CONTENT STANDARD: Understanding music in relation to history and culture

## Objectives/Skills

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### Concepts

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Style

Word usage

Understanding of definition of protest song

### Activities/Skills

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Listening

Creating/Writing Music & Lyrics

### PreKnowledge

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Students will have completed creative projects before, and have also been exposed to a variety of styles of protest music from the 1960's and 70's counter culture.

### Instructional Objectives

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Students will demonstrate understanding of a protest song through proper use of words, topic, and lyrics.

### Procedure

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### Mind Capture - Motivation

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Describe to students a summary of events at Kent State University involving Vietnam War Protesters and the National Guard. After showing a clip of events, or describing the situation for students, play Neil Young's song "Ohio". Ask students to reflect on lyrics with the knowledge they now have regarding the song and its inspiration.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BGrgcoR0dkc&feature=related>

## Sequence

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1. Pass out a worksheet with the following directions that state the following: After listening and studying the music of the 1960's and 1970's, which dealt with divisive cultural and political issues of the time, pick a topic that is relevant to today's social, cultural, or political climate and write lyrics to be put to an already existing song.
2. Play for students a number of songs that incorporate political protest as their subject matter.
3. Consider playing (with clearing from administration) Macklemore's "Same Love" to highlight how modern music is still reflecting the social and cultural differences within our society.
4. Allow students to pick a song of their choice to use as their musical basis, and have them write lyrics to replace the existing ones with politically charged lyrics.
5. After giving a tutorial on GarageBand, have students create loop based songs and place lyrics with their own melody. After creating the song with loops, have the students export the song as an .mp3.
6. Then using any available video editing software, have students create a montage of pictures related to their protest song to go along with the GarageBand created tune.
7. Invite students to recite their song, or sing, with the a backing track at the end of the lesson. Or have them present the video if they are uncomfortable singing.

## Closure

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Ask students to reflect on their song and think of any modern day existing protest song. Ask them to write up a short paragraph describing their feelings towards the activity and modern music's investment in social and cultural change.

## Assessment - Evaluation

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Students will be assessed on their use of language/lyrics to accommodate a protest song. If they show thought and effort towards their issue of choice then they will receive a satisfactory grade.

## Materials

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Recordings of protest songs

Worksheet

