

Title of Session: Learning From Lyrics
Moderator: Johnathan Chase
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Room: Learning From Lyrics Group

BjB : welcome, everyone, to this month's Learning From Lyrics

BjB : we usually start all Tapped In discussions with introductions

BjB : please tell John where you are located and what interests you in the topic.

BjB : I teach communication in Pennsylvania and have become a real fan of John's sessions...always soooo informative and fun

AlyssaYS : I am located in Kingsville, Texas. This topic interests me because it has a role in my major

BonnieHa: I teach 7th and 8th grade language arts and enjoy using lyrics to teach poetry. I'm located in the Chicago area.

AlyssaYS : I am a student at Texas A&M University Kingsville studying music education

JoseRP: I am Located in Kingsville, Texas and I'm a Music Major

JohnathanC: I teach 7/8 social studies and I will be teaching a SUPA Public Affairs class for the first time this September....Central NY

AlexandrMB: I am a student at UTPA in Edinburg, TX and a English Major

JohnathanC: Was everyone here last month?

AlyssaYS : I wasn't

BonnieHa: Nope, first time for me.

DavidWe joined the room.

AlexandrMB: I wasn't; I am new to all this.. so far enjoying tapped in

JoseRP: This is my First time

DavidWe: Welcome to Tapped In, Alexandra, Jose

AlyssaYS : I'm new to tapped in as well

DavidWe smiles

DavidWe: Welcome to Tapped In, Alyssa

JohnathanC: Well I'll start by sharing an activity that we looked at quickly last month

JohnathanC: I use songs and music videos to stimulate writing and critical thinking

JohnathanC: Also to encourage students to compare and contrast documents

JohnathanC: put on your thinking caps...

JohnathanC: and click on the link

JohnathanC: <http://www.learningfromlyrics.org/idone.htm>

BjB : whoah...nice eyeball, John!

JohnathanC: There's a lot to digest but I teach my students to devote a paragraph per document and to tackle them in any order

AlyssaYS : how is it that you incorporate this in the curriculum?

JohnathanC: They may have seen some of the documents previously as well

AlexandrMB: what do they do if they do them all out of order how is it going flow altogether

JoseRP: Can it be any kind of music?

JohnathanC: In NY we focus on document based questions and thematic essays, I'm getting at that skill through the use of music and lyrics

JohnathanC: Yes Jose

AlyssaYS : what type of themes do they use?

JohnathanC: I tell them that they should order their paragraphs to have the strongest responses at the beginning and at the end

JohnathanC: Let's look at some finished essays and I think it will be clearer

AlyssaYS : Johnathan do you have a background in music?

BonnieHa: Do you use a rubric to evaluate?

JohnathanC: a love of music and yes I use rubrics

JohnathanC: Check out this essay question and scroll down to read student responses...

JohnathanC: <http://www.learningfromlyrics.org/onedbq.htm>

CelesteR: Hey! I wanted to wait. I am afraid that this is for more elementary grades. I teach 10-12

BjB: not at all, Celeste!

BjB: Johnathan's lessons are more for middle and high school

JohnathanC: They generally tackle the question in the order I present the documents and I encourage them to bring in outside information and examples

CelesteR: I looked at the websites. I am looking for strong lyrics. Music, like the one I use Depeche Mode People are People, Bob Marley Redemption Songs

JohnathanC: Comments or questions regarding the essays?

JohnathanC: Still reading?

AlexandrMB: I like this material it lets the students express what they think and along the way finding what they truly believe

JohnathanC: I'm a big advocate of character education

AlexandrMB: I am too

CelesteR: Is that music that just started to play from your website?! Love it!

JohnathanC: music?

CelesteR: I am looking for the essays...as for character education...Everything I teach revolves around peace and how to creatively produce positive change.

JohnathanC: does everyone have a dsl connection, we are going to watch/listen to some media?

BonnieHa: Yes

AlyssaYS: I think so

AlexandrMB: me too

CelesteR: Yes.

JohnathanC: I think Celeste was checking out our MySpace

CelesteR: Yeah!

BjB smiles

JoseRP: I can try

JohnathanC: Lets look it gives a good overview of the program

JohnathanC: and great comments!

JohnathanC: <http://www.myspace.com/learningfromlyrics>

JohnathanC: I like the song too!

AlexandrMB: do we go there?

CelesteR: Johnathan, while you check, are you able to have Tapped In Campus open...I am tabbing back and forth.

AlyssaYS : I like the myspace

AlexandrMB: me too

JoseRP: Cool Pictures

BjB : going back and forth is ok, Celeste. Just don't lose the chat

AlyssaYS : I like the pictures

JohnathanC: Thanks, that's an 8th grade project

AlyssaYS : the class seems very creative with the projects

CelesteR: Johnathan, what was the 8th grade project, the site?

JohnathanC: They must also select a tribute song to play in class when they present their memorial project

AlyssaYS : what type of class is this?

JohnathanC: If you click on a picture you will go to a gallery with a collection of them

JohnathanC: 7/8 social studies

JoseRP: Giving the student the freedom to create what they want

CelesteR: Superb! I also like the Tulsa Lynching Essay Assignment...easily adaptable for higher grades...Love it.

AlyssaYS: I think it's fabulous what you are doing with the students using music

AlexandrMB: what made you become this type of teacher that lets the students express who they are and who they see these certain assignments

JohnathanC: they already have a relationship with music

CelesteR: Do they choose the song...or do you? I should read it over.

CelesteR: But my students listen to the pop music playing constantly on the radio that really says nothing.

JohnathanC: They must select a song that represents the spirit or ideals of the person they memorialized

CelesteR: I have to do the research...or do I?

JohnathanC: There is a lot more to pop than we realize

JoseRP: How so?

JohnathanC: Tell students that the song has to be meaningful and connected to their topic

AlyssaYS: have you been able to use classical music? such as Beethoven or Bach?

JohnathanC: I'm working on it

JohnathanC: How about this one...

JohnathanC: <http://www.learningfromlyrics.org/dreamdbq.htm>

AlexandrMB: what type of students do you work with

JohnathanC: We will watch "Pursuit of Happiness" before we tackle the essay

JohnathanC: We have inclusion so regular and special ed

JohnathanC: What do you notice about MLK's speech, what does he reference?

AlexandrMB: what type of results do u see when u first begin in the year and when the year comes to an end

JohnathanC: is a gradual process, skills develop over time

JohnathanC: Here's a 7th grade essay....

AlexandrMB: hmmm, I see and I like this technique

JohnathanC: <http://www.learningfromlyrics.org/lewisandclark.htm>

AlyssaYS : do the students ever use rap or hip hop music?

JohnathanC: Occasionally they do use rap, I start small with just one document and one song...

JohnathanC: <http://www.learningfromlyrics.org/firedbq.html>

AlexandrMB: so u won't overwhelm them right?

AlyssaYS : what songs do they pick out of curiosity?

JohnathanC: yes

JohnathanC: <http://www.learningfromlyrics.org/traildedbq.html>

JohnathanC: Twisted Sister!

JohnathanC: <http://www.learningfromlyrics.org/notgonna.html>

JoseRP: That's a good song

AlexandrMB: I agree

JohnathanC: Anyone can make a simple constructed response activity

JohnathanC: Put several together and you are on your way to a DBQ essay with multiple documents

JohnathanC: The students are learning how to analyze and they love to listen to music

JeffC is listening to Bread's "If" now... kids might not like it (too melodic and slow)... but hey... *I* love it.

AlexandrMB: what inspired you to use this technique?

AlexandrMB: I agree too

JohnathanC: I want them to think and feel

JohnathanC: and to realize that the words of songs are important

JohnathanC: Neil Young.....

JohnathanC: <http://www.learningfromlyrics.org/southerndbq.html>

AlexandrMB: umm good artists and music

AlexandrMB: yet I like the diversity u bring into the classroom

JohnathanC: Phil Collins

AlyssaYS: I remember doing something along these matters when I was in high school...we did it in a government class

JohnathanC: <http://www.learningfromlyrics.org/para.html>

AlexandrMB: there are no stereotypes

AlyssaYS: I don't recall writing an essay though

SusanLC: Philadelphia school district created a booklet of 1960s protest songs, accompanied by cd, to be used to teach the period in history classes. I used it for a unit in 9th grade creative writing.

JohnathanC: Want to watch the music video that goes with the first DBQ essay I presented?

AlexandrMB: sure

AlyssaYS: yes

CelesteR: Sometimes, with my classes it takes a lot of planning and improvisation to get to fit in a meaningful lesson like this...our standardized tests in 10th grade take up a lot of time

SusanLC: yes

BonnieHa: Yes

JoseRP: yes

AlexandrMB: I agree

CelesteR: Me too

JohnathanC: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8sgycukafqQ>

AlexandrMB: it loses the flexibility and fun out of a classroom

AlyssaYS : that's a good song I really like the video

JoseRP: All the schools do is prepare for test

AlexandrMB: yep! and unprepared because that's all they know

SusanLC: How do you use the video? or is it a class product?

AlyssaYS : the video depicts the lyrics well

AlexandrMB: and I do like the video too

JohnathanC: "...And so, my fellow Americans, ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country".....What I've Done

AlexandrMB: it expresses so much in the world right now

JoseRP: JFK

JohnathanC: I use it as one of my documents for the essay question

SusanLC: aha!

AlexandrMB: ummm that is good

CelesteR: Tell me more about JFK

AlexandrMB: it can stir up so many questions

JohnathanC: yes

AlexandrMB: and feelings in a student's mind

JohnathanC: and start focusing on solutions

SusanLC: There's a lot there for an essay--what is your essay question?

AlexandrMB: deep and solid

JohnathanC: Inspire students to make a difference

AlexandrMB: material

JohnathanC: Check this out I just found it recently

JohnathanC: all about making connections!

JohnathanC: <http://www.thekingcenter.org/>

JoseRP: Do you play music in your classrooms as the students work?

JohnathanC: love that message

AlyssaYS : if you play music in the classroom what type do you play?

JohnathanC: I will play the song that is part of the question

SusanLC: Will you repeat the question as well?

JohnathanC: They are handed the question with the lyrics

JoseRP: I liked the speech

AlexandrMB: thanks

AlyssaYS : oh ok

AlexandrMB: I liked the speech too

AlexandrMB: inspiring

CelesteR: Johnathan...that song Unwritten by Natasha Bettingfeld is awesome too I used it last year

AlyssaYS : I like that song

JohnathanC: older song

JohnathanC: <http://www.learningfromlyrics.org/overdbq.html>

AlexandrMB: me too

JohnathanC: and making connections to current times

JohnathanC: <http://www.learningfromlyrics.org/freedomdbq.html>

AlyssaYS : some old song have better meanings than some of the ones today but some of the ones are really good about current time

AlexandrMB: it is just a mix of things... history, music, inspiration. it must get ur students going

AlexandrMB: I agree

JohnathanC: it does

JohnathanC: me too

JoseRP: All about Freedom

BjB looks at the clock on the wall

CelesteR: I use One by Metallica with JGHG...awesome! to see that there is someone out there doing the same. Before today I thought I was alone.

AlexandrMB: it is just the foundation on which your country is built on

BjB : The next Learning From Lyrics discussion will be on August 21.

BjB : And don't forget the Tapped In Festival on July 25!!!

JohnathanC: Thanks everyone

AlexandrMB: u were great

AlyssaYS : thank you for sharing your teaching strategies

BjB : Thanks, Johnathan! Terrific discussion

JohnathanC: You all were great!

BonnieHa: Thanks, Jonathan...good material. Thanks for sharing.

JoseRP: Great Discussion

CelesteR: I came in late, but got a treasure. Thanks for your time!

AlyssaYS : great topic

JohnathanC: Teach Your Children well....