Social Change through Music

Throughout time, musicians have used their songs to promote social change that they see as needed in their society (or sometimes in another society). These musicians often seek changes in human rights, laws and other social conditions that exist through time. Working with a partner, your task is to find one of these songs that deal with a social problem and to identify the social change the group or artist is trying to achieve. You will also be required to complete the following questions and present these to the class. You will also need a copy of this song to play for the class during your presentation. Please tell me your song choice as soon as you have it, as there will only be one group per song.

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- 1. What is your song name? Artist?
- 2. What are the lyrics to the song?
- 3. Give a brief biography of your artist/band.
- 4. What's the basic message about social change in this song?
- 5. What lyrical lines related to the social change the artist/band is trying to encourage?
- 6. Do you think the song is accurate or right in its message about the social change? Why or why not?
- 7. What personal experience does the artist/band have with the social change (i.e. did they live through it? Visit the country? Etc.) What motivated the artist/band to write the song?
- 8. What was going on in the world when the artist/band wrote this song? How does this apply to their song?
- 9. What other efforts have the artist/band made to help initiate the change they talk about in their song? If they have not, why do you think this is?
- 10. Who does this song impact? Who is the intended listener of the song (i.e. target market)?

Presentation

Please format the above information in an interesting way to present to the class. Your presentation should be no more than 10 minutes including the playing of the song and the analysis of the lyrics.



