Theme is a concept that is important for TEENS to understand. Themes are central messages or using figurative language, threads that weave through a book, film, song, play, poem, etc. In Humanities class our theme is Social Justice. The books that you have read have themes. You will begin this writing project by choosing an interesting song, then writing a strong thesis statement about its theme. It is very important that you support your thesis statement with evidence from the song. In order to do this you will need to analyze and write about several lyrics. Read the entire outline and rubric, then start here:

1. Print the lyrics, listen to the song and read the lyrics. Repeat several times.

2. Compose a thesis statement. Here is an example of a thesis statement about the theme in Wonder: “In the book Wonder, by R.J. Palacio, kindness is the central theme that is woven through the fabric of the text, especially in relationships and choices made by characters.”

3. Look for evidence to support your thesis statement. You’ll need to find at least three lines from the song that directly support your thesis. No guesswork. If you can’t find three lines, then this is not the song for you. Find a new one.

4. Look for examples of figurative language. You must be able to identify and explain at least two of the following: metaphor, simile, personification, hyperbole, allusion, imagery. Try to identify and explain as many as you can. If you can’t find two, then this is not the song for you. Start over.

5. Write a six-paragraph rough draft of your analysis essay. You will be writing about the theme of your song, but also about other aspect that relate to theme, such as audience and purpose. Use your analysis activity as a compass to guide your writing. You must quote three lines from the lyrics and use them as evidence to support your thesis statement. Student example from Gone: “When Jack Johnson wrote “is it straight from the mould and ready to be sold?” I think he is asking if you are just like everyone else or are you original.” See below for a summary of what must be included in each paragraph. DOUBLE-SPACE this draft.

5. Revise your rough draft with a classmate. Make sure you have all of these parts:

(1) An introductory paragraph including facts about your song — title, artist, year, album, record label, song writers (if different from artist), and anything else that you think is relevant — ending with a thesis statement, as modeled above. You must include what the theme is. This should flow nicely in coherent sentences and not “The artist is ______. The album was ______. It came out in the year ________.” NO COLD FRIES!

(2) A supporting (detail) paragraph. This should include at least three direct quotes from the lyrics, each with an explanation. These quotes should directly support your thesis.

(3) A paragraph that correctly identifies and explains at least two examples of figurative language. Explain why it is figurative language, what it means, and how it relates to your thesis statement.

What will your verse be?
Song Analysis Essay

(4) A paragraph explaining who you think the intended audience was. You should use background knowledge to help come to this conclusion. Research when necessary. Explain how this relates to your thesis statement.

(5) A paragraph explaining the purpose for writing the song. Will it change lives or the world? How does purpose relate to the theme? Was there a problem that the artist was attempting to solve? What’s the point? Explain how this relates to your thesis statement.

(6) a concluding paragraph. First, restate your thesis statement is a slightly different way than as it appeared in your introduction paragraph. Next, summarize your findings for EACH paragraph in a sentence or two. Finally, include your opinion about the theme. Will it make a difference in your life or the world you inhabit? END STRONG!

6. Edit your revised draft. Check for conventions (spelling, grammar, capitalization, punctuation). Have a classmate help you edit. Then check it again.

7. Print your final draft, making sure that all of the necessary edits are applied. Print a new, clean copy of your song’s lyrics and staple it to your printed essay. TURN IN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RUBRIC</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>Breakthrough</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Conventions</td>
<td>&gt;6 errors</td>
<td>4-5 errors</td>
<td>2-3 errors</td>
<td>0-1 error</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thesis statement</td>
<td>no thesis statement.</td>
<td>unclear or confused thesis statement, possible about something other than theme.</td>
<td>partial or unclear thesis statement. Might be a simple sentence.</td>
<td>clear thesis statement about the theme of the song. Complex sentence.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evidence from text/lyrics</td>
<td>original lyrics are not referenced in your paper</td>
<td>one line in the song is referenced in your paper and supports your thesis statement</td>
<td>two lines in the song supporting your thesis statement are referenced in your paper.</td>
<td>three or more lines in the song supporting your thesis statement are referenced in your paper.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Figurative Language</td>
<td>No attempt or incorrect.</td>
<td>Identify or explain 1+</td>
<td>identify or explain 2+</td>
<td>Identify and explain 2+</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Length</td>
<td>two connected paragraphs, each containing &gt;4 sentences.</td>
<td>four connected paragraphs, each containing &gt;5 sentences.</td>
<td>five connected paragraphs, each containing &gt;5 sentences.</td>
<td>six connected paragraphs, each containing &gt;5 sentences and matching criteria in outline.</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
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What will your verse be?