**Analyzing Songs as Poetry: Some Ideas**

Choose a few songs that you like (or maybe that you have written). For each song, you can use these prompts as a guide for how you might consider them as you would poetry. (Songs are just lyrical poems, after all.) You can, however, also consider musical components, and not just the words.

Don’t think of this as a worksheet, but rather an organizer for how you analyze your songs.

* Rhyme scheme
	+ What is the rhyme scheme? Is there one at all?
	+ Is it important?
	+ How does it contribute to the way the song flows?
	+ Does the rhyme scheme (if any) vary at all?
* Metre/rhythm
	+ What is the rhythm or metre of this song?
	+ Is it regular, or does it change throughout?
	+ What musical signature is suggested by the metre?
	+ Does the metre add anything to the feel of the song? Its urgency? Its atmosphere?
* Tone (words, chords, tension in unresolved progressions)
	+ What tone does this song convey?
	+ How is that tone achieved? What contributes to the tone? (words, chords, BPM, performance only…)
* Theme
	+ What is the song trying to tell you about the world? About people?
		- Theme is always expressed in the form of a statement. (e.g. “People are inherently good.”)
* Literary devices (You might need to look these up. More than just identifying them, talk about how effective they are, how they support the theme or mood or tone, if anything stands out, if anything really bugs you…)
	+ Dissonance
	+ Assonance
	+ Onomatopoeia
	+ Alliteration
	+ Symbol
	+ Simile
	+ Metaphor
	+ Others?
* Voice/persona
	+ Who is singing this song?
	+ What kind of person is the singer?
	+ To whom/about whom are they singing?
	+ Is the persona of the singer (like a narrator) important in this song?
* Refrain/chorus
	+ Is there one? If so, what is its message?
	+ How does it relate to the theme?
	+ How does it affect the overall rhythm of the song?
	+ Does it have a different metre from the verse?
	+ Does it have a different chord structure from the verse?

If you would like to turn this into an essay, feel free to choose a part of the work above, create a thesis statement, and then support that thesis in a multi-paragraph essay. You could even compare two or more songs. Or two or more versions of the same song by different performers.

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"Writing about music is like dancing about architecture—it's a really stupid thing to want to do." — Elvis Costello