

Music 209
Guidelines for Song Analysis Project

Address the following four areas, using complete sentences and paragraphs to explain your answers. Your paper must be typed and double-spaced.

1. Group History
 - a. List group members, how long the group was together, and number of album projects.
 - b. Is the group's own geographic, racial, ethnic, and/or social background reflected in the song?
 - c. Was this a hit song for the group? If not, do you think fans of the group felt this was not a message they wanted to hear?
 - d. Does this song represent a defining moment or turning point in the philosophy of this group?
2. Song Structure/Musical Content
 - a. Using the "Rock Roadmap" (below), outline the song in Capital Letter Form indicating: Verse, Chorus, Vamp, Bridge, Coda, Introductions, etc., when present.
 - b. Indicate meter (2,3,4) and tempo (medium, slow, etc.)
3. Lyrical Content
 - a. Type out the words and explain what the song is a protest for/against.
 - b. Are the words a poem or prose? Discuss the choice of words and imagery that communicates the message.
4. Societal Context/Stance
 - a. How were youth viewed by society when this song was popular?
 - b. Were the group's public performances, actions, or behaviors other means of protest besides this particular song?

Rock Roadmap:
Finding the Structure of a Song

Measure/Bar.....One group of beats; for instance, four in 4/4 time.

IntroductionGenerally four to eight bars of instrumental music at the beginning of a song. Many songs have no introduction and go directly into either the Chorus or Verse.

ChorusEight to sixteen bars usually contains the words that are the title of the song.

VerseEight to sixteen bars. Words often tell the story or convey the main message of the lyrics.

Bridge.....Transitional music, usually of fewer bars than either the Chorus or Verse.

Solo.....Traditionally a guitar or piano solo over the harmony of the Chorus section or, much less often, the Verse section. Could be almost any other instrument or even an improvisatory vocal solo.

Coda/Vamp.....A small musical fragment from the song repeated over and over which is usually part of a "fade out" on an audio recording.

Form Outline.....In analysis, a kind of "shorthand" where capital letters are used to indicate the major sections of a song. A=Chorus B=Verse C=Bridge D=Coda. Whether it is the Verse or Chorus that comes first in a song, that is usually called "A."

Head..... The beginning of a song.

Hook..... A short instrumental section that is very memorable and is often the first four bars of a verse or chorus.