

# Unit 1 Capstone: Music Analysis

## **Purpose:**

To write an analysis of the argument made through either song's lyrics or a music video that demonstrates whether or not the argument in the song is made effectively.

## **Topic:**

You may choose any kind of song for this analysis, so long as it has words. You may pick a song in another language, so long as you provide a translation for me. You might select a song you love or one you despise. The only requirement is that it must attempt to persuade the audience in some manner.

## **A Closer Look:**

The focus of this analysis essay is a directed statement, rather than a question. This statement should reveal your evaluation. Your essay should directly state what argument is being presented through the music, what evidence is used to support the argument and whether or not the argument is effective. To develop your rationale/evaluation, pull from knowledge about rhetorical strategies that we've explored in *Thank You For Arguing*.

In keeping with academic convention, early in the essay (paragraph 1 or 2 at the latest), you should give the reader an idea of where you are going. In other words, you should share your claim about the essay directly and quickly. You'll also want to use a clear method to organize your thoughts; don't let yourself wander through the essay—stay focused and give clues (transitions) to alert the reader of where you're going.

Consider the artist's thesis, purpose, methods (ethos, pathos, and logos) and decorum to help you develop the claim you want to make about their song. If you're using a video, be sure to address the visual aspects of the piece as well.

Here are some questions you might consider to help you brainstorm:

- What is the artist's central idea? Who is the audience?
- What questions does the artist address?
- What are the key parts and how do they relate to one another?
- What strategies are used to generate interesting or persuade the audience?
- What evidence is used? How effective is it?
- Does the artist anticipate objections and counter opposing views?
- Does the artist establish trust with his or her audience?
- Does the artist fall prey to any faulty reasoning?

## **Specifics:**

- Approximately 3 pages (not including works cited), using standard MLA formatting conventions.
- Give your essay a title. Please make it something more creative than "Analysis Project 1." No bold, italics, underlining or quote marks around your own title. The title should be the same font size as the rest of the paper.