Song Analysis Assignment

Description:
Do you have a song that appeals to you? That you can relate to on a deeper level? That you feel has lyrics that are meaningful on a deeper level? This is your chance to analyze that song, and to tell your classmates about it! For this assignment, you will work in a group of three-four to analyze the lyrics of a single song that you feel means something, that might represent who you are and the experiences you have gone through. Your presentation will involve not only looking at the theme and meaning of your song, but also looking at the poetic devices the artist of your song has used in conveying those feelings. Mr. Cappucci must approve all songs prior to your group starting the assignment.

Expectations:
The goal of this presentation is to touch on the important details of song writing and its poetic elements. Your presentation must include the following:

- The genre of music and background on the artist and song
- A description of at least FIVE poetic devices
- The musical quality of the song and its relation to lyric poetry
- The overall meaning and themes of the song
- The way the song relates to you and your personal experiences

The key to this assignment is to find a song that you can relate to. The best presentations will feature a deep and meaningful connection between the presenters and the song.

Suggested Structure:
The following model would be a good way to structure this presentation:

- **Introduction:** Tell us a little bit about the song you have chosen, the artist who performed the song, and the genre of music that it belongs to
- **Overall Meaning:** Give the class your interpretation of the lyrics of the song, the message that the artist is trying to get across with their song
- **How You Relate:** Be very clear in telling us why you chose this song, what it means to you and why you think it is a message that is important to your generation
- **Specific Lyric Analysis:** Choose at least 5 different lines from the song and explain why they are significant to the overall meaning of the song, and what kind of poetic devices the artist uses in these sections
- **Conclusion:** Summarize all of your above points in a fashion that leaves the class with an understanding of your song and its importance

Brass Tacks:
The following are the requirements of this presentation:

- 5-10 minutes in length
- Equal talk time among partners
- Things to hand in:
  - Presentation notes (in point form)
  - A copy of the song lyrics (with key portions highlighted)

PRESENTATIONS BEGIN: May 15th

OUR SONG: ____________________________ by ____________________________

Group Members: ____________________________________________

__________________________________  ____________________________

__________________________________  ____________________________
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Categories</th>
<th>Level 4 (21-25 pts.)</th>
<th>Level 3 (16-20 pts.)</th>
<th>Level 2 (15-19 pts.)</th>
<th>Level 1 (&lt;14 pts.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Knowledge/Understanding</strong></td>
<td>Selects a song that clearly has meaningful, relatable lyrics to the presenters</td>
<td>Selects a song that generally has meaningful, relatable lyrics to the presenters</td>
<td>Selects a song that has somewhat meaningful, relatable lyrics to the presenters</td>
<td>Selects a song that does not have meaningful, relatable lyrics to the presenters</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Demonstrates thorough understanding of the overall theme and meaning of the song</td>
<td>Demonstrates considerable understanding of the overall theme and meaning of the song</td>
<td>Demonstrates some understanding of the overall theme and meaning of the song</td>
<td>Demonstrates limited understanding of the overall theme and meaning of the song</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Thinking</strong></td>
<td>Critically analyzes specific lyrics with great effectiveness</td>
<td>Critically analyzes specific lyrics with considerable effectiveness</td>
<td>Critically analyzes specific lyrics with some effectiveness</td>
<td>Critically analyzes specific lyrics with little effectiveness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Makes strong connections between specific lyrics and overall meaning</td>
<td>Makes good connections between specific lyrics and overall meaning</td>
<td>Makes some connections between specific lyrics and overall meaning</td>
<td>Makes few connections between specific lyrics and overall meaning</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Communication</strong></td>
<td>Clearly organizes ideas and uses professional language to appeal to a peer audience</td>
<td>Organizes ideas and uses professional language with good clarity to appeal to a peer audience</td>
<td>Organizes ideas and uses professional language with some clarity appeal to a peer audience</td>
<td>Organizes ideas and uses professional language with little clarity appeal to a peer audience</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Speaks with a strong vocal tone and shows appropriate body language</td>
<td>Speaks with a solid vocal tone and shows good body language</td>
<td>Speaks with a decent vocal tone and shows somewhat strong body language</td>
<td>Speaks with a weak vocal tone and does not show appropriate body language</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Application</strong></td>
<td>Shows great understanding of imagery, metaphors and the use of other poetic and literary devices within song lyrics</td>
<td>Shows solid understanding of imagery, metaphors and the use of other poetic and literary devices within song lyrics</td>
<td>Shows some understanding of imagery, metaphors and the use of other poetic and literary devices within song lyrics</td>
<td>Shows little understanding of imagery, metaphors and the use of other poetic and literary devices within song lyrics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Selects a song that clearly defines the issues, values, customs and social norms that are important to you</td>
<td>Selects a song that generally defines the issues, values, customs and social norms that are important to you</td>
<td>Selects a song that somewhat defines the issues, values, customs and social norms that are important to you</td>
<td>Selects a song that does not define the issues, values, customs and social norms that are important to you</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>