

The Pop Window: A Version of Paul Friedlander's "Rock Window"

Take the number assigned to your group, and break down, as best you can, the constituent parts of the music you hear.

I — Music (Answer a-c in a sentence or two, then do as asked in d.)

- a) *Ensemble* — List each instrument in the song. Describe the dominant sound of each instrument used. (Remember the human voice can be a musical instrument.)
- b) *Rhythmic Emphasis* — Describe the dominant rhythm. **Also, list** what instruments carry the rhythm. (Remember the human voice can be a musical instrument.)
- c) *Vocal Style* — On a scale of one to ten, describe how much emotion the singer generates in his/her delivery.

II — Lyrical Content

- a) Identify, **by circling below**, the major lyrical theme or themes of the song. Use lyrics from the text to clarify your thematic choice, and then use these topical classifications as a way to begin your organization of the material:
 - (1) romantic love,
 - (2) sex,
 - (3) alienation
 - (4) justice/injustice,
 - (5) introspection,
 - (6) other.
- b) **Describe, in a couple of sentences**, what other concerns might be underneath the surface of the lyrics. Are there metaphors that allow us to see something other than what is immediately apparent? Are there lines that point to concerns that might symbolize more than what they mean?

III— Societal Context Identify the cultural, political, and economic forces surrounding the artist and the material that are relevant to an understanding of this song in its societal context. Music historians generally agree that the understanding of an individual song or artist necessitates its placement in its societal context. **Write a couple of sentences about what you know about a-b.**

The specific divisions in this category are:

- (a) social and political movements,
- (b) significant historical and cultural moments,
- (c) and ways in which **race, class and gender** might play a roll in the work—either subtly or overtly.

IV— What it might mean: Take a moment and write **a sentence or two** about what you think is significant about the song as a cultural, societal, historical, or artistic document. Also, what might be some of the key ideas, what Jim Burke calls "crucial moments" of the lyrics?

III — Artist History Describe the important elements of personal and career history of the artist that will enhance the listener's understanding of the song. The Artist category is divided into three sections: (a) major psycho- social factors and personal history during early years and adolescence, (b) important landmarks in career, (c) musical history, including formal and informal training and proximity to and familiarity with various musical styles.

Notes:
