

Guidelines for Directed Listening Assignment

Goals:

- (1): To apply newly developed musical vocabulary and listening skills to a specific piece of music;
- (2): To begin to grapple with questions concerning relevance of lyrics, esthetic evaluation, and stylistic categorization.

Assignment: After listening several times to a song, be prepared to discuss the questions below, citing particular locations (identified in minutes/seconds of elapsed time) in the song to support your answers.

1. Form

- How is the song structured? Consider larger sections as well as phrases.
- Are there recognizable elements such as verse, chorus, introduction, bridge, etc?
- What elements (melody, harmony, text, instrumentation, etc) help delineate the form?
- Are repetitions exact or varied?
- How does the song end?
- Construct a diagram of the form.

2. Rhythm

- How is the song's beat made explicit? Is the beat ever obscured?
- What is the approximate tempo of the song? Is this constant or does it change?
- What is the song's meter? (Be sure to include both grouping and division/subdivision.)

3. Instrumentation

- How many different instruments can you identify? Are any of them doubled?
- Is there a standard rock instrumentation? Are there any unique features?
- Describe the roles of the various instruments (i.e., lead, accompaniment, etc).

4. Pitch

- Is the song in major or minor? Is this consistent throughout, or does it change?
- Point out instances of pitch repetition. Is it exact or varied repetition?
- Are there lead and/or backing vocals? Counterpoint?
- Is there anything unusual about the pitch structure?

5. Lyrics

- Are the lyrics straightforward or esoteric?
- What do you believe is the meaning or message contained in the lyrics?
- Does the song use foreign languages? Non-syntactic ("nonsense") sounds?

6. Is there anything about this song that you find particularly noteworthy?

7. Do you believe this song is an example of "Classic Rock"? Why or why not?