**Group Song Analysis**

David Nwafor

AP government

10/29/2014

Jay Z: 99 Problems

Jay Z – hip hop mogul, one of the most successful musicians, critically acclaimed and a commercially successful hip hop artist – shocked the world of music with his single 99 Problems, produced by Rick Ruben, from 2004 which was going to be in his, supposedly, last album: The Black Album. The song sonically wasn’t your typical Jay Z song, but it was refreshing to see him do new things. The song lyrically, consists of your classic Jay Z, braggart nature, and some criticism about the police. I will do a synopsis of his second verse which comprises of some amendment relation. He begins by introducing the situation, the he states, “So I, pull over to the side of the road, I heard ‘Son do you know why I'm stopping you for?’ Cause I'm young and I'm black and my hat's real low.” Here, Jay is addressing the recurring problems with racial profiling. Statistics show that more African Americans are being pulled over than White Americans. He also said, “’License and registration and step out of the car Are you carrying a weapon on you? I know a lot of you are’ I ain't stepping out of shit, all my paper's legit. ‘Well, do you mind if I look around the car a little bit?’ Well, my glove compartment is locked, so is the trunk in the back. And I know my rights, so you gon' need a warrant for that.” According to the Fourth Amendment, an officer isn’t allowed to conduct a search unless they have probable cause. Jay doesn’t know why the officer told him to step out of the car, so he won’t. He isn’t doing anything illegal. Lastly, he uttered, “Well we'll see how smart you are when the K9 come”. In the Fourteenth Amendment, no state she deprive any citizen’s rights without due process. Since the officer doesn’t have probable cause and a warrant, because of the Fourteenth Amendment he has no choice but to wait for one and possibly back up.

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David Nwafor

AP government

10/29/2014

Killer Mike: Reagan

Killer Mike – successful underground rap artist who is critically acclaimed and associates to acts like Outkast – released a single for his album that dropped in 2012 called: R. A. P. Music. He’s known for his politically aware raps and is sometimes labeled as a political rapper or a conscious rapper. I will make a full analysis of the song and relate it to one of the amendments. In his second verse, he talks a lot about inequality protection of the law. He states, “They declared the war on drugs like a war on terror. But it really did was let the police terrorize whoever. But mostly black boys, but they would call us ‘niggers’. And lay us on our belly, while they fingers on they triggers” According to the Fourteenth Amendment, no state she deprive any citizen’s rights without due process and guarantees equal protection of the law to everyone. The African American people in his neighborhood aren’t treated as equally as the White Americans. He also said, “Cause free labor is the cornerstone of US economics. Cause slavery was abolished, unless you are in prison. You think I am bullshitting, then read the 13th Amendment. Involuntary servitude and slavery it prohibits. That's why they giving drug offenders time in double digits” Here he literally is referring to the Thirteenth Amendment, which prohibits the enslaving people without their will. He’s criticizing the prison system and how “they” make drug offenders serve double digits in order to enslave them.

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10/29/2014

Lupe Fiasco: Words I Never Said

Lupe Fiasco – critically acclaimed rapper with four platinum albums and a well-respected lyricist – released his single for his album, Lasers in 2011. I will make a synopsis of his song and relate it to the amendments. She stated, “Jihad is not holy war, where's that in the worship? Murdering is not Islam, and you are not observant” Here he censures the Jihadist movement and also sheds light on what Islam really is. He also wants to stop the Islam stereotype since the bombing of the Twin Towers. He also said, “I think that all the silence is worse than all the violence”. This is a very powerful statement. He is encouraging people to exercise their First Amendment right to Free Speech, Press, Petition, and Assembly.

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10/29/2014

Ice T: Freedom of Speech

Ice T – a well-respected hip hop rapper, inspiration to the 99 Problems single and a supporting character in Law and Order: SVU – released a song for his third critically acclaimed album, dropped in 1989, called “The Iceberg/Freedom Of Speech... Just Watch What You Say!” I will make a full analysis on a selected verse of the song and relate it to one of the amendments. In the beginning of the fourth verse, he said, “Freedom of Speech, let 'em take it from me. Next they'll take it from you, then what you gonna do? Let 'em censor books, let 'em censor art” Here he tries to explain the First Amendment and still rhyming at the same time. He then touches on censorship. He’s rapping off experience and feels that if they are going to try to censor his words, they might as well censor books and art. He also stated, “PMRC, this is where the witch hunt starts. You'll censor what we see, we read, we hear, we learn. The books will burn.” Here he calls out the Parents Music Resource Center (PMRC) who try to increase to parental control over the access of children to music deemed to violence. He also touches on censorship in music. Lastly he states,

        We should be able to say anything, our lungs were meant to shout

Say what we feel, yell out what's real

Even though it may not bring mass appeal

Your opinion is yours, my opinion is mine

If you don't like what I'm sayin'? Fine

But don't close it, always keep an open mind

In these lyrics, you can find some criticism to the execution of the First Amendment. Some people, publications, TV shows, etc. get censored every day. He’s tired of it and is trying to be heard by many so they can protest against it.

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Wilbel Serrano

AP Government ¾

10/25/2014

Girls Just Want To Have Fun – Cyndi Lauper Analysis

Cyndi Lauper’s No. 2 hit on the *Billboard* Hot 100 “Girls Just Want to Have Fun (1983)” is a song that is vastly influenced by reform movements, such as the Feminist movement and the Women’s Right Movement. The 19th Amendment of the US constitution is an important achievement to mention when it comes to women’s rights. Women actually getting a voice in the government is an extreme advance in these movements; solving many problems women faced at the time of these revolutionary movements. When women are faced with an issue regarding inequality between genders in the government, then woman can change it. This achievement of changing what affects women’s treatment of equality is greatly illustrated by pop star Cyndi Lauper in her hit, Girls Just Want to Have Fun.

Cyndi Lauper’s “Girls Just Want to Have Fun” touches on the aspect of how women’s freedom are freer and how women can make a change in both society and government. After women are granted more freedom, women celebrate and exercise their new freedoms. Cyndi Lauper echoes in this particular song, “Girls just want to have fun” (Lauper). Women should able to represent themselves how they want to. Women should have the opportunity to do the same things as men do. Cyndi also remarks in *I want my MTV*: The Uncensored Story of the Music Video Revolution, “I wanted ‘Girls Just Want to Have Fun’ to be an anthem for women around the world—and I mean all women—and a sustaining message that we are powerful human beings. I made sure that when a woman saw the video, she would see herself represented,

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whether she was thin or heavy, glamorous or not, and whatever race she was” (Lauper). This particular statement also brings in factors of Amendment 14 when voting was opened up to all races and ethnicities.

Cyndi Lauper was a musical artist who pioneered and inspired many women musicians to spread the word of women’s rights and equal treatment. The more women, and men, who know of the issues women face; the more women’s rights will be balanced with men’s rights. A person whose work has a place in women’s right history.

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Wilbel Serrano

AP Government ¾

October 26, 2014

Takao – Chthonic

        Chthonic is a Taiwanese metal band who are the pioneers of metal music In South East Asia. Chthonic’s musical pieces touches on Taiwanese history and can even be connected to political and social issues. Chthonic’s “Takao” is a prime example of how Chthonic’s music that connects to the history of Taiwan.

        Taiwan is a nation that has been involved in many battles and even wars upon the whole idea of nationalism. Taiwan’s constant involvement in wars in South East Asia has caused Taiwan to become more independent and diverse in its culture. In Chthonic’s “Takao”, this piece of history is touched on. Takao, in this can, can be connected to a transport ship belonging to the Imperial Japanese Army during WWII. Taiwan’s involvement in WWII and the can have connections to the 3rd Amendment of the United States Bill of Rights.

        In “Takao”, horrors of the Japanese invasion of Taiwan is the main subject in the song, however when deeper investigated there are cases of the 3rd Amendment being broken. The 3rd Amendment of the United States does not in any way impact Taiwan, but it is interesting to see the perspectives of other nations and how they view military forces as a high authority. “Takao” does not directly say that Taiwanese soldiers used homes of civilians as quarters, however it was an important event in Taiwanese history that occurred during the times of war, especially during the Japanese invasion of Taiwan.

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Simon Asem

AP government

10/29/2014

The song that we have selected is “Where is the love” by the Black Eyed Peas. This song talks about all of the problems that were happening during the time that this was written. “Overseas, yeah, we try to stop terrorism But we still got terrorists here livin In the USA, the big CIA The Bloods and The Crips and the KKK” this sentence in the song states the problem with terrorism that the United Sates was having in 2001. On September 11th, 2001 the United States was greatly impacted by an attack made by the taliban. “Nations droppin' bombs Chemical gasses fillin' lungs of little ones. With ongoin' sufferin' as the youth die young. So ask yourself is the lovin' really gone” This lyric of the song is explaining the effects of the things that the united states did in their past. This explains the bombs that were used to kill people during WW1 in numerous operation.  “Not respectin' each other, deny thy brother. A war is goin' on but the reason's undercover” One example of music that addresses this era is where is the love by the black eyed peas. This song connects to the first amendment because of how in this song they're able to express how they feel about their government and all the things thats it’s doing wrong.

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10/29/2014

Get up stand up was written by Bob Marley in 1973. This song connects directly to the first amendment because of the message that Marley is sending to the audience. The chorus of this song states “get up stand up , stand up for your rights” Marley. The whole goal of this song was to motivate people to stand up for what they believe is right. The song also tells people that they should not stay passively waiting for divine intervention if they want to better their lives. And they should not have to wait for the afterlife either. God is not going to "take away everything, and make everybody feel high" - take away all the pain and problems; provide bliss for each of us. God in the mind of this lyricist is "a living man" and he requires us to take action ourselves. We should not let ourselves be talked down to in church. No. "Stand up for your right!". The connection that this song has to the first amendment can be tied to different parts of the first amendment. Freedom of religion and freedom of assembly can both be connected with this song.

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10/29/2014

Shots is a song that was written by the group LMFAO which featured Lil Jon. The group LMFAO released this song in October 13th, 2009. “All of the alcoholics, Where you at? Let's go.” Lil Jon. This song connects to the 18th and the 21st amendment because this song is all about alcohol and having fun and getting drunk. It’s because of reasons like this that lead to the 18th amendment. The 18th amendment was the prohibition of alcohol. This amendment made it illegal to transport, sell, or purchase alcohol. The reason for this amendment was that at the time it was written many people were blaming all the problems in that era because of alcohol. The 21st amendment repealed the prohibition of the 18th amendment. In the song “Shots”, LMFAO and Lil Jon talk about the different types of alcohol and how they are fun and enjoyable and all these things are reasons for why the 18th amendment was ever put into action.

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“Oh Freedom” was recorded originally in 1931 by the E. R. Nance Family with Clarence Dooley as "Sweet Freedom".  “Oh Freedom is thought to date back to the newly-post-Civil War era, though no specific author is known. “Oh freedom” became an important anthem during the Civil Rights movement of the mid-20th Century. The words in this song are extremely powerful to the 13th amendment. This amendment abolished slavery in the USA. This whole song is strictly about how much having freedom and being free really meant to the African American slaves. “No more moaning, no more moaning, no more moaning over me and before I'd be a slave I'll be buried in my grave and go home to my Lord and be free” This part of the song explains the hard work that slaves had to endure and go through. This is represented in the song when they say no more moaning. The moaning is a representation of pain. Because this piece is a folk song, it has many connected to the slavery. Most folk songs that were written, expressed the feelings of slaves and how they wanted to be free.

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