Modern American History

Mr. Rotondo

**We Shall Overcome:**

**Music From the Civil Rights Movement**

Civil Rights Movement

Playlist Project

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The Civil Rights Movement was rooted in the Christian tradition, and Black communities utilized the strength of their faith, its non-violent message, and the music of this religious tradition to give them the will to persevere. The power of these spiritual songs cannot be underestimated in the overall strength of the movement. Songs were sung in church and in jail, on marches and at sit-ins. It was the lyrics of the songs, along with the melodies, that helped strengthen the activists during the movement.

Through our readings and discussions you will gain an understanding of the key issues driving the movement, but more importantly, of the emotions that surrounded this highly charged and pivotal time in our history. Keeping the key events and emotions in mind, your assignment is to create a Civil Rights Playlist. This playlist will tap into the power of music to convey the emotions and sentiments surrounding the important aspects of the movement.

Your playlist should include songs that you feel represent the struggles, success, and failures of the Civil Rights Movement. The songs do not have to actually be about these events; you just need to be able to make a connection between the song and the topic. Your playlist needs to have at least **five** songs **(no more than 1 song per topic)**. For each song, you must:

* Provide the lyrics, **formatted** within your paper
* Write a brief summary of the song and a brief summary of the topic
* Explain how the song applies to the topic you chose

You will also create an album cover for your playlist:

* Create an interesting title that is appropriate to the assignment
* Include creative visuals that relate to the Civil Rights Movement and the songs you chose

Topics:

Emmett Till

Little Rock

Montgomery bus boycott

The Sit-in movement

Birmingham

Freedom Riders

March on Washington

Black Militancy

Medgar Evers

Civil Rights Movement in general

Grading Rubric: 150 points

Each song is worth 20 points. To get the full points, you must have lyrics and a summary that explains what the song is about and why you chose it. The longer and clearer your explanation is, the more points you will get. SONG TOTAL: **100 points**

Your album cover is also worth **20 points**. Your cover should represent both the songs you chose and the topics you are connecting them too. It should be neat and creative.

The remaining **30 points** are for the overall appearance of your project, song choice, and effort. Things like an introduction and conclusion, printed photos, etc., will only help your grade!

Due:

**(OTHER TOPICS AVAILABLE PER TEACHER APPROVAL)**



This outline will help you with your project!

Song 1:

Topic 1:

Connection between song and topic:

Song 4:

Topic 4:

Connection between song and topic:

Song 3:

Topic 3:

Connection between song and topic:

Your song:

Topic 5:

Connection between song and topic:

Song 2:

Topic 2:

Connection between song and topic: