

## Protest Song Directions

**Directions:** It may sound like a huge challenge to write your own protest song, but following the steps below will get you on your way!

**1. Pick an issue that matters to you.**

Refer to your homework assignment from last night and think which of the three issues you listed is the most important to you. Make sure it is something that you know enough about that you can write about it. You could write about anything from environmental issues to racism to the war in Iraq.

**2. Decide who you would want to hear this song (who is the audience?)**

For example, if you are writing a protest song about the war in Iraq, do you want it to be heard by other high school students, by Americans in general, or by our government?

**3. What style of music would help you most get your message across to this audience? (Rock, rap, or salsa are possible examples.)**

If, for example, you are writing a song for people your age, you might want to use whatever type of music is the most popular with you and your friends. Make sure your style makes sense for your audience.

**4. What instruments would make sense for this type of music?**

Victor Jara used many instruments that held special meanings for the Chilean people, instruments that had been part of their culture since before Europeans had ever arrived on their continent. What instruments do you want to use, and why?

**5. Write your song.**

It might be easier to think about writing a song by thinking of a song you really like, copying its rhyme scheme, even singing the music in your head as you go. If you are writing rap, then you might even want to think about it like writing poetry. The lines do not have to rhyme, but they might. Try to find a rhythm in the words that you choose. Your song should be at least two verses long. Does it have a chorus?

**6. Final Draft**

On the top of your page, write an introduction that explains what your song is protesting, who the audience is, what the style is, what instruments you would use, and (if you used one) which song you used as a model.

Below that, write out a final draft of the song. Make sure it is neat so that others can read it!