World Studies English name:

Why do ~~stories~~ songs matter?

In a well-organized four-paragraph essay, explain how a song has helped you to deal with or make sense of a struggle.

Your essay should begin with an introduction that describes the problem with which you were dealing or the issue the song is about. The last sentence in your introduction should be a thesis statement that names how the song helped you cope or what the song’s lesson is. The body should explain how the song related to your emotions and helped you to cope or learn. Each body paragraph should use at least one piece of textual evidence from the song. (Keep in mind the paragraphs we just wrote about *Favela Rising* in which we thoroughly introduced, explained, and analyzed textual evidence.) The conclusion should meditate on your feelings about this particular struggle now.

Feel free to use the outline below to organize your thinking:

**introduction**

- hook

- introduce topic

- name the song and artist you will be focusing on

- provide background information about the struggle you were facing or the struggle the song is about

- thesis statement:

*(example)*

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ helped me with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ because…

*artist’s name title of song struggle*

**body paragraph 1**

- topic sentence

- context of textual evidence

- textual evidence

- in-text citation

- explanation/paraphrase of textual evidence

- analysis of textual evidence: *Why does this quote matter? How does it matter to you? How did it help you cope?* **Your analysis should be at least 3-5 sentences long.**

**body paragraph 2**

- topic sentence

- context of textual evidence

- textual evidence

- in-text citation

- explanation/paraphrase of textual evidence

- analysis of textual evidence: *Why does this quote matter? How does it matter to you? How did it help you cope?* **Your analysis should be at least 3-5 sentences long.**

**conclusion**

- restate thesis statement

- final thoughts: *Where do you stand in terms of this struggle now? Are you still dealing with or learning from it? Have you experienced change or growth?*

Essay outline with sample sentence starters

I. Introduction (4-5 sentences long)  
 i. Hook (Personal question or opinion question)  
  **Have you ever felt \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ because of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?** ii. Introduce the topic (Name of song and artist; describe a problem you faced or the problem the song talks about.)  
  
**The song “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_” by the singer/band \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ discusses \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_’s problem   
with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. I have faced a similar problem when \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.** iii. Thesis (the main idea of your essay)

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_’s song “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_” helped me understand/ cope with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ because the lyrics made me feel \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**II. Body Paragraph 1 (6-8 sentences long)i.Topic Sentence: **When I think of my struggle with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ I picture\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**ii.Context of the quote: **Hearing \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_’s song “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_” made me   
  
feel\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. In the song “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_” \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ sings about   
  
\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. He/she sings,**

iii.Citation**: “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_” (Artist’s last name).**iv.Explanation**: Basically \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is saying that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**v. Analysis**: This quote means a lot to me because\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

**These words are important because\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

**This quote matters/makes sense because\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

III. Body Paragraph 2 (6-8 sentences long- choose another quote from the same song or use a different song and artist; if you do this you will need to include the 2nd artist’s information in your thesis)  
i.Topic Sentence: **When I think of my struggle with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ I also think of\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**ii. Context of the quote: **Hearing \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_’s song “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_” made me   
  
feel\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. In the song “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_” \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ sings about   
  
\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. He/she sings,**

iii. Citation**: “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_” (Artist’s last name).**iv. Explanation**: Basically \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is saying that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**v. Analysis**: This quote means a lot to me because\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

**These words are important because\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

**This quote matters/makes sense because\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

IV. Conclusion (4-5 sentences)

i. Restate thesis statement: **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_’s song “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_” helped me face my problem with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and feel \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

ii. Final thoughts: **Now when I think of my struggle I am \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ because\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.  
  
I have learned/ I am still trying to understand why\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

**My experience has made me become a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ person because\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.  
  
In the future I hope\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**