

# WAYS OF TEACHING POPULAR & COMMON CULTURES

v1.3 9.23.09

Using the “Ways of Teaching Popular & Common Cultures” as guiding principals, use the following questions and strategies to enhance your use of popular music in the classroom.

## BIG GUIDING QUESTIONS

1. What curricular content do you want to explore with this text?
2. What are the themes and main ideas of the text that interest you?
3. What are the teaching objectives you want to use this text for?
4. What approach (stand-alone, direct link, or Rorschach) seems like the strongest starting point for your teaching of the text?
5. How can you differentiate instruction around this text?
6. How can you make an engaging and fun student-centered lesson using this text coupled with differentiated activities?

## OTHER POINTS OF CONSIDERATION

1. Are there any special or interesting circumstances surrounding the production, popularity or uses of the text? Are there things students might want to know about the text's creator?
2. What are the interesting or unique musical features/characteristics of the text? For example, if we were studying or producing a music text we might look at timber, tone, mood, melody, harmony, rhythm, dynamics, tempo, meter, instrumentation, editing and sound effects that merit further analysis.
3. What other texts (films, comics, radio, books, websites or stories) can this text connect with?
4. What text specific terms or vocabulary may need to be defined?
5. What misunderstandings might students bring to the text?
6. How can you activate the students' prior knowledge to make your lesson more meaningful?
7. Does this text reflect on or comment on societal norms and values? If so, how?