

Songs in the Key of My Life



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Montclair State University, NJ
2018 NCSS Chicago, IL

SOCIAL STUDIES

- “the **integrated study** of the social sciences and humanities . . .” (NCSS, 2016)
- concerned with the systematic examination of **how people live and relate to each other** in and around their respective communities
- examination of the countless ways in which human beings document their **multitudinous private, personal, and public encounters**
- **music...evinces** much of **people’s lives**, intentions, and undertakings

(Davis, D., 2018. *Social Studies Through the Arts*. Cognella Academic Publishing)

The Power of Songs

- **songs tell stories** and story is the most powerful weapon (tool) for change
- story allows people to have/make connection and connection allows us to see how we are more alike than we are different
- story as a **weapon against violence, bigotry, hatred...**



Jordan Peele with Oprah's Super Soul Conversations 2/28/2018
"Can Film Change our Culture?"

The Power of Music

- Use music to make a difference
- Music is a **powerful tool toward...justice**
- Words don't/can't always explain everything; **everyone is touched by music**



Kevin Eubanks,
Nantucket Project, 2018

Guiding Questions

1. How might I use my personal soundtrack to help prospective teachers grasp sociocultural nuances that will position them to fittingly interact—e.g. plan and teach—in the future with schoolchildren of color and their families?
2. How might an individual's soundtrack of lived experience be used to teach social studies?



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1. **Unwritten** (Natasha Bedingfield)
2. **Garden State of Mind** (The Empire Project)
3. **This Land is Your Land** (Woodie Guthrie)
4. **I'm From NJ** (Red Mascarara)
5. **Old Man Trump** (Woodie Guthrie)
6. **I Choose** (India Arie)
7. **Black Man** (Stevie Wonder)
8. **Inner City Blues** (Stevie Wonder)
9. **Everyday People** (Sylvester Stewart)
10. **Where is the Love?** (Black Eye Peas)
11. **Same Love** (Sam Smith)
12. **The Star-Spangled Banner** (Francis Scott Key)
13. **Lift Every Voice and Sing** (James Weldon Johnson)
14. **Freedom** (Beyoncé)

- Identify and research songs
- Provide varied song history
- Make minimal instructor links
- Play song
- Request open ended feedback

SP 2018

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- Update song research
- Request student-song links
- Use song history framework
- Make course-topic-prof links
- Play song
- Ask guided questions

FA 2018

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