**Music as Literature**

**Directions:** Your job is to create a technology-based biography of a famous musical artist. If you choose a contemporaneous artist then you must compare her/him to an earlier, similar artist. Otherwise, you must choose an artist from the 1970’s or earlier.

Your artist must fulfill the following criteria:

* The artist(s) must have been a musical innovator
* The artist(s) must have addressed important social issues in her/his music
* The artist(s) must have influenced subsequent musicians
* The artist(s) must have created musical content that can influence the way we see and understand the world

Your biography must include the following information:

* Important biographical details, including childhood, adult life and death
* Describe the social conditions they lived in, and how they were shaped by these conditions
* Expert analysis of their art
* Analysis of at least three songs, focusing on the social and political significance of the songs
* Insight from an older relative who is familiar with the artist

Things to include:

* Archival photographs
* Imbedded video
* Lyrics and analysis
* Your own oral commentary

Your project must be 3-5 minutes in length.

You may refer to these videos for inspiration:

Bessie Smith: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CT4z847-hyc>

Billie Holiday: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nfl4fFKrLtw>

Ma Rainey: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VW0NWfv9Z_Y>

Louis Armstrong: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sIILBeUrYLk>

Frank Sinatra: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lm8rZdr7wf8>

Muddy Waters: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H9BgPbdRr8c>

**Please note that you will present to other students from outside this classroom. Consequently, you are required to design a short quiz or other assessment in order to determine what your audience has learned.**

**Due Date: 11/29/16**

**You will only have select class time to work on this project. Research and analysis should be conducted at home.**