

America-Close Reading

Quickwrite Topic: What is America? What does it mean to be an American?

Quickwrite Topic: What is America? What does it mean to be an American?	
Song Title: "Courtesy of the Red, White, and Blue" Artist:	
Task (Focus on strategies which help the speaker achieve his/her ultimate purpose.) Diction -What kinds of words are used in the song? Do they generate some type of emotional response? Is the language loaded (positive or negative connotations)? Is the language formal? Informal? What is the overall impact of the language used?	Response
Imagery -What visual images are created in the text of the song? Describe any special issues that you notice about the way in which the image(s) is presented. What is the overall impact of the image? Does the speaker use any literary elements such as simile, metaphor, or personification? Does the song allude to any specific people, places, products, or events used in the song? If so, what are they? What do you think they represent literally? Symbolically? What purpose do they serve in achieving the overall purpose of the song? If necessary, do a Google search.	
Syntax -How is sentence structure used in the song? What linguistic (language) strategies are used (repetition, alliteration, comparison and contrast, definition) and what function do they serve?	
Narrative Strategies -How does the speaker tell the story? What point of view is used? If applicable, how are events sequenced? What impact do these elements have on the reader?	
Mood -What is the general ambiance of the song-the mood that is created, the feelings that it stimulates?	
Additional Elements -Are there any other elements which might be significant? What are they? How are they important?	
Task What is the general subject of the song?	Response/Explanation (What evidence in the song serves as the basis for your response?)
Who is the speaker? Remember that the speaker cannot simply be the author/songwriter. Is there an identifiable speaker? What other clues are there as to the speaker? Age? Gender? Social class? Emotional state? Occupation?	

<p>Who is the intended audience? Whose attention does the speaker seek to gain? To whom is the speaker speaking? Is it a general audience? Specific audience?</p>	
<p>What do you believe to be the author's purpose? Authors write to entertain, to inform, to persuade, to critique, to complain, to explain, to reflect, to describe, <i>sometimes to simply express a truth</i>. Often, writers have a dual purpose as in Amy Tan's "Fish Cheeks"—to entertain and to teach a lesson about accepting one's culture.</p>	
<p>Identify at least three specific (rhetorical) strategies used within the song to achieve the speaker's goal.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • • 	

How might the speaker in this song respond to the following question: *What does it mean to be an American?* Using information from the graphic organizer above, create your response in the form of a controlling thesis.

In _____ uses

(the speaker)

(song title)

(rhetorical strategy #1)

(rhetorical strategy #2)

(rhetorical strategy #3)

(opinion regarding America)

to convince the audience that _____