Writing Situation for Song Analysis

You have just landed a job with a local music magazine. Your first assignment is to write a short article in which you interpret the lyrics of a popular or favorite song.

Choose a popular song that has lyrics that you would enjoy interpreting.

In a brief article, write an analysis of this song. First, summarize what the song says, paying attention to details in each stanza. Second, state what you think the song’s theme is—what insight into life does it reveal? Third, explain the song’s effect on you. How do you think the lyricist wants you to feel about the his or her choice of words. How does the musical composition affect you?

INTRODUCTION

Catch the reader’s attention and let the reader know what your article will be about.

Give background information about song, stating title, etc.

Write the words to the song in poetry form

State the theme of the song, which will be the thesis statement. Your thesis statement should explain how the song has affected you.

BODY

You may want to begin the body of your essay with a paragraph stating your summary.

Follow with a paragraph about the theme of the poem.

Then write a paragraph explaining the poem’s effect on you.

CONCLUSION

In your conclusion, you may want to summarize your main points and restate your thesis.

GUIDELINES

1. Review your article to locate and correct errors in grammar, usage, and mechanics. (Remember to enclose the title of the song in quotation marks.)

2. Use correct form to show that parts of a song have been quoted. If you quote three or more lines of the song, begin the quoted material after a colon, and separate the quoted material from your text by skipping a line, indenting, and writing the material in the same form as the song in poetic form. Start a new line rather than using a slash mark to separate lines. Line numbers should be given to identify the quotation.
EXAMPLE:

In the first stanza, Carole King tells of the richness of her life by comparing it to a tapestry of many colors. She tells that her life is an ongoing process of change, impossible of always staying the same:

My life has been a tapestry of rich and royal hue,
   An everlasting vision of the everchanging view.
   A wondrous woven magic in bits of blue and gold,
   A tapestry to feel and see, impossible to hold.
   (lines 1-4)

If you quote two lines of the song in your text, separate the lines with a slash mark (/)
And enclose them with quotation marks.

EXAMPLE:

In the last line of the song, King reveals to us, “Now my tapestry is unraveling” (line 20).