

# 4741 Project Proposal

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## 1 Question

The purpose of our project is to answer this question: In what way have song lyrics changed to reflect the political and social climate of the times?

## 2 Data

Our data set currently is a bag-of-words set with over 237,662 songs compiled into it:

<http://millionsongdataset.com/musixmatch>

The lyrics come in bag-of-words format. Each track is described as the word-counts for a dictionary of the top 5,000 words across the set. We chose this set to answer our question because it is a comprehensive compilation of lyrics from the past 50 years.

## 3 Importance

We are researching this question to find if there is a clear pattern between how the emotional climate of the world impacts songwriting. We would like to look at what people are drawn to the most in songs, and find if it reflects what people care about most in the real world. We're likely to succeed in answering our question as music has always been an avenue for people to express their thoughts about the state of the world, politically and socially. We hypothesize that there is an obvious connection between musical lyrics and society's reflection on these events.