

The argument (of articulation) is that while elements of culture are not directly, eternally or exclusively tied to specific economically determined factors such as class position, they are determined in the final instance...through the operation of articulating principles which *are* tied to class position. These operate by combining existing elements into new patterns or by attaching new connotations to them.

—Middleton, p.8

- **Can you think of an example of articulation in your own field?**
- **Do you think Middleton's approach to finding meaning in culture is a useful one? Are there instances in which it doesn't apply?**

John Lennon's 'Imagine', so powerful when one is listening to it, may afterwards be quite easily broken down into fairly disparate elements: radical text; rock-ballad melody, harmony and orchestration; singer-songwriter ('confessional') piano; soul/gospel-tinged singing. What is tying these together is...a position associated with alienated intellectuals in late-capitalist society...(it) lacks sufficient material support and ideological legitimacy to sustain itself.

—Middleton, p.16-17

- **Do you agree that 'Imagine' fails at its ideological mission?**
- **Can you think of alternative works which can be more successfully articulated to a single position, and would be harder to appropriate (as the Conservative Party conference did with 'Imagine' in 1988)?**