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Protest Song Project Choice 3

11/8/22

1. Monkeys Gone to Heaven – Pixies

There was a guy  
An under water guy who controlled the sea  
Got killed by ten million pounds of sludge  
From New York and New Jersey  
  
This monkey's gone to Heaven  
This monkey's gone to Heaven  
This monkey's gone to Heaven  
This monkey's gone to Heaven  
  
The creature in the sky  
Got sucked in a hole  
Now there's a hole in the sky  
  
And the ground's not cold  
And if the ground's not cold  
Everything is gonna burn  
We'll all take turns, I'll get mine too  
  
This monkey's gone to Heaven  
This monkey's gone to Heaven  
This monkey's gone to Heaven  
This monkey's gone to Heaven  
  
Rock me Jo  
  
If man is five, if man is five, if man is five  
Then the devil is six, then the devil is six  
The devil is six, the devil is six and if the devil is six  
Then God is seven , then God is seven, the God is seven  
  
This monkey's gone to Heaven  
This monkey's gone to Heaven  
This monkey's gone to Heaven  
This monkey's gone to Heaven  
This monkey's gone to Heaven  
This monkey's gone to Heaven  
This monkey's gone to Heaven  
This monkey's gone to Heaven  
This monkey's gone to Heaven

Climate change was not a thing that happened overnight, but during the 1970s, ecology has become emphasized and taking care of the environment was seen as odd. Caring for the environment was a hippie activity. Moreover, from data analysis and research, it was abundant that the planet was becoming warmer by ozone layer-destroying CFC gases in commercial manufacturing and industrial production. As climate change was affecting people and the planet in a negative way, people with a voice or platform wanted to address the problem globally. The song, “Monkeys Gone to Heaven” deals with a man’s confused place in the universe. The reason why this is such a powerful protest song is because it brings awareness to environmental issues. It has a direct and clear message, and the point is made clearly, capturing the attention of listeners.

1. Anarchy to the U.K. – Sex Pistols

Right  
Now  
ha ha ha ha ha...  
  
I am an antichrist  
I am an anarchist  
Don't know what I want  
But I know how to get it  
I wanna destroy passer by  
  
Cause I  
Wanna be  
Anarchy  
No dogs body  
  
Anarchy for the UK  
It's coming sometime and maybe  
I give a wrong time stop at traffic line  
Your future dream is a shopping scheme  
  
Cause I  
I wanna be  
Anarchy  
In the city  
  
How many ways to get what you want  
I use the best  
I use the rest  
I use the enemy  
I use anarchy  
  
Cause I  
Wanna be  
Anarchy  
It's the only way to be  
  
Is this the M.P.L.A  
Or is this the U.D.A  
Or is this the I.R.A  
I thought it was the UK  
Or just  
Another  
Country  
Another council tenancy  
  
I wanna be  
Anarchy  
And I wanna be  
Anarchy  
Know what I mean  
And I wanna be  
Anarchist  
Get pissed  
Destroy

It was the mid-1970s in Britain. The country was not doing good financially as a whole, with cutbacks, strikes and an economic depression. There needed to be something done. Sex Pistols released, “Anarchy to the U.K” to try to raise awareness to the economic problem in Britain. The band’s plea for any change in the U.K. was put in extreme terms with anarchy. The band showed represented how anarchy is not a good thing and how Britain as an anarchy country will not go over well. Overall, this song is powerful since its message of trying to prevent the U.K. from becoming anarchy summarized the feelings of the unemployed teenagers who looked on as Britain was in a bad economic state. The message of there needs to be a drastic change was clear.

1. This is America – Childish Cambino

Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah  
Yeah, yeah, yeah, go, go away  
Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah  
Yeah, yeah, yeah, go, go away  
Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah  
Yeah, yeah, yeah, go, go away  
Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah  
Yeah, yeah, yeah, go, go away

We just wanna party  
Party just for you  
We just want the money  
Money just for you  
I know you wanna party  
Party just for free  
Girl, you got me dancin’  
Dance and shake the frame  
We just wanna party  
Party just for you  
We just want the money  
Money just for you  
I know you wanna party  
Party just for free  
Girl, you got me dancin’  
Dance and shake the frame

This is America  
Don’t catch you slippin’ now  
Don’t catch you slippin’ now  
Look what I’m whippin’ now  
This is America  
Don’t catch you slippin’ now  
Don’t catch you slippin’ now  
Look what I’m whippin’ now

This is America  
Don’t catch you slippin’ now  
Look how I’m livin’ now  
Police be trippin’ now  
Yeah, this is America  
Guns in my area  
I got the strap  
I gotta carry ’em  
Yeah, yeah, I’ma go into this  
Yeah, yeah, this is guerilla  
Yeah, yeah, I’ma go get the bag  
Yeah, yeah, or I’ma get the pad  
Yeah, yeah, I’m so cold like, yeah  
I’m so dope like, yeah  
We gon’ blow like, yeah

Ooh-ooh-ooh-ooh-ooh, tell somebody  
You go tell somebody  
Grandma told me  
Get your money, Black man  
Get your money, Black man  
Get your money, Black man  
Get your money, Black man  
Black man

This is America  
Don’t catch you slippin’ now  
Don’t catch you slippin’ now  
Look what I’m whippin’ now  
This is America  
Don’t catch you slippin’ now  
Don’t catch you slippin’ now  
Look what I’m whippin’ now

Look how I’m geekin’ out  
I’m so fitted  
I’m on Gucci  
I’m so pretty  
I’m gon’ get it  
Watch me move  
This a celly  
That’s a tool  
On my Kodak Black  
Ooh, know that  
Get it  
Ooh, work it  
Hunnid bands, hunnid bands, hunnid bands  
Contraband, contraband, contraband  
I got the plug in Oaxaca  
They gonna find you like “blocka”

Ooh-ooh-ooh-ooh-ooh, tell somebody  
America, I just checked my following list, and  
You go tell somebody  
You mothafuckas owe me  
Grandma told me  
Get your money, Black man  
Get your money, Black man  
Get your money, Black man  
Get your money, Black man  
Black man

Ooh-ooh-ooh-ooh-ooh, tell somebody  
You go tell somebody  
Grandma told me, “Get your money”  
Get your money, Black man  
Get your money, Black man  
Get your money, Black man  
Get your money, Black man  
Black man

You just a black man in this world  
You just a barcode, ayy  
You just a black man in this world  
Drivin’ expensive foreigns, ayy  
You just a big dawg, yeah  
I kenneled him in the backyard  
No, probably ain’t life to a dog  
For a big dog

In America, the issue of gun violence is alarming. Furthermore, the reality of the social and racial conflicts with African Americans was addressed in the song. For instance, police brutalities and discriminatory violence showed how African Americans are stressed and fearful of even going outside. The nature of police brutality is emphasized, and Childish Gambino shows how there is no room for error when you are African American. The smallest acts can be viewed as resistance. Data shows that the number of deaths in the U.S. is exponentially increasing. This is addressed in the song through discussing mass shootings. This song is a powerful protest song since the song deals with ongoing contemporary issues of racism.

1. Paper Planes – M.I.A.

I fly like paper, get high like planes  
If you catch me at the border I got visas in my name  
If you come around here, I make 'em all day  
I get one done in a second if you wait  
  
I fly like paper, get high like planes  
If you catch me at the border I got visas in my name  
If you come around here, I make 'em all day  
I get one done in a second if you wait  
  
Sometimes I think sitting on trains  
Every stop I get to I'm clocking that game  
Everyone's a winner, we're making our fame  
Bona fide hustler making my name  
  
Sometimes I think sitting on trains  
Every stop I get to I'm clocking that game  
Everyone's a winner, we're making our fame  
Bona fide hustler making my name  
  
All I wanna do is  
And a  
And take your money  
  
All I wanna do is  
And a  
And take your money  
  
All I wanna do is  
And a  
And take your money  
  
All I wanna do is  
And a  
And take your money  
  
Pirate skulls and bones  
Sticks and stones and weed and bongs  
Running when we hit 'em  
Lethal poison for the system  
  
Pirate skulls and bones  
Sticks and stones and weed and bombs  
Running when we hit 'em  
Lethal poison for the system  
  
No one on the corner has swagger like us  
Hit me on my burner prepaid wireless  
We pack and deliver like UPS trucks  
Already going hell just pumping that gas  
  
No one on the corner has swagger like us  
Hit me on my burner prepaid wireless  
We pack and deliver like UPS trucks  
Already going hell just pumping that gas  
  
All I wanna do is  
And a  
And take your money  
  
All I wanna do is  
And a  
And take your money  
  
All I wanna do is  
And a  
And take your money  
  
All I wanna do is  
And a  
And take your money  
  
M.I.A.  
Third world democracy  
Yeah, I got more records than the K.G.B.  
So, uh, no funny business  
Are you ready all?  
  
Some some some I some I murder  
Some I some I let go  
Some some some I some I murder  
Some I some I let go  
  
All I wanna do is  
And a  
And take your money  
  
All I wanna do is  
And a  
And take your money  
  
All I wanna do is  
And a  
And take your money  
  
All I wanna do is  
And a  
And take your money

Immigrants are seen as second-class citizens in America. The song shows the problems immigrants face in the U.S. Listeners realize that life as an immigrant is difficult. With no government aid trying to acquire a visa and the lack of jobs. The most famous line in the song is, “All I wanna do is (gun shots), and (cash register ring), and take your money.” These two lines make up the majority of the chorus, which is why many listeners find it to be the most memorable part of the song. The inclusion of gunshot noises in the opening paragraph essentially sends the notion that many people think immigrants entering the United States are just there to incite violence. The second line also makes the point that some people could believe immigrants just come to take employment and money away from the "hardworking" legal residents who live nearby. The added cash register noises help to emphasize this idea. This song is very powerful because it shows the struggles of an immigrant coming to the U.S.

1. Song 33 – Noname

Oh, I have ambitions, dreams  
But dreams don't come cheap  
  
I saw a demon on my shoulder, it's lookin' like patriarchy  
Like scrubbin' blood off the ceiling and bleachin' another carpet  
How my house get haunted?  
Why Toyin body don't embody all the life she wanted?  
A baby, just nineteen  
I know I dream all black  
I seen her everything, immortalizin' tweets all caps  
They say they found her dead  
  
One girl missin', another one go missin'  
One girl missin', another  
  
But niggas in the back quiet as a church mouse  
Basement studio when duty calls to get the verse out  
I guess the ego hurt now  
It's time to go to work, wow, look at him go  
He really 'bout to write about me when the world is in smokes?  
When it's people in trees?  
When George was beggin' for his mother, saying he couldn't breathe  
You thought to write about me?  
  
One girl missin', another one go missin'  
One girl missin', another one  
  
Yo, but little did I know all my readin' would be a bother  
It's trans women bein' murdered and this is all he can offer?  
And this is all y'all receive?  
Distracting from the convo with organizers  
They talkin' abolishin' the police  
And this the new world order  
We democratizin' Amazon, we burn down borders  
This a new vanguard, this a new vanguard  
I'm the new vanguard

The social inequalities of African Americans and women are shown in the song. The song underlines the issues of racial injustices, wealth gaps between people and sexual orientation biases. Moreover, this song is a response to J. Cole’s track, “Snow on Tha Bluff”. Noname calls J. Cole out for not being able to take criticism and says how his platform could’ve been a voice for change. Noname expresses this is not the time to be hurting because of somebody’s opinion on controversial topics. In the chorus, Noname tries to talk about her dreams but as a black woman, her dreams and ambitions are more difficult than others due to her gender and race. This is a protest song since it is bringing awareness to the problems that women, and especially African-Americans face. The song has a powerful message since it exposes the harsh realities of African-American women.