

The song “Throw It All Away,” by Toad the Wet Sprocket, features the narrator advocating to the subject to value friends and to try to follow what feels like their true purpose is in life. However, the subject of the song is ambiguous, and could be easily either society as a whole or a single person the singer is addressing directly.

Overall, there are phrases with ambiguous subjects, and more specific ones that seem to be speaking to only one person, which I’d argue is what the song is aiming to do. Close to the beginning of the song, there’s the lines “Take your cautionary tales/And take your incremental gain/And all the sycophantic games/And throw ‘em all away.” I’d say that while this can be applied to society as a whole, the specificity of “your” combined with that of the three subjects indicates a more personal touch. As well, towards the end of the song, the line “...fill the hole inside your heart” further supports the personal motif, with it – arguably – requiring more personal knowledge of a person