MUSCLG 5: Post-1965 Listening Guide Tiya Chokhani

**Green Day - “American Idiot”**

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| Written by Billie Joe Armstrong, recorded by Green Day and released by Reprise Records. Released in August of 2004, the single peaked at #61 on the *Billboard* Hot 100 and ranked the #13 Single of the Decade by *Rolling Stone* magazine in 2009. |
| **Form:** Verse Chorus form (ABAB), Rock & Roll |
| **Time Signature:** 4/4 |
| **Instrumentation:** Electric Guitar, Bass, Drums, Lead Vocals |

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| 0.02 | Instrumental Intro |  | * 4 bar Rock & Roll electric guitar intro * First bar is muted * The fast tempo (about 180-190) * Multiple guitars |
| 0.13 | Verse 1 | “Don’t wanna be an American…” | * Lead vocals start * 8 bar verses (instruments switching with the kickdrum) * Same guitar riff throughout * Lyrics only on kickdrum verses, this helps pull focus to the lyrics * Kickdrum on every quarter note of every alternate bar |
| 0.33 | Chorus | “Welcome to a new kind of…” | * 10 bar chorus * Every bar starts with one quarter note followed by 14 sixteenth notes * Only drums for the last bar |
| 0.59 | Verse 2 | “Well maybe I’m the …” | Same as Verse 1 |
| 1.20 | Chorus | “Welcome to a new kind of…” | Same as Chorus |
| 1.48 | Instrumental Break |  | * Upbeat and fast paced guitar solo |
| 2.14 | Bridge | “Don’t wanna be an American…” | * 3 bars of guitar followed by 1 bar of only vocals * The same guitar riff from the intro plays |
| 2.24 | Outro | “Welcome to a new kind of…” | * Heavy distortion used in the last bar |