

LESSON PLAN: Re-Create A Song Using Only Vocals

Objective:

Students will be able to use their voices to approximate pitches, rhythms, and sounds contained within a song of their choice..

Resources:

Internet and visual source
Devices or computers with students chosen song
Headphones and headphone splitters
Paper and pencil
Projector

Procedures:

- 1 Play a video or song for the class which highlights the human voice in different capacities. Examples include a Bobby McFerrin performance, a beatboxer, a clip from the television show "The Sing Off," etc.
- 2 Explain to students that they are going to work in small groups and use their voices to imitate the sounds they hear in a recording of their choice.
- 3 Provide the class with several examples of how to recreate the sounds in a recording, demonstrating one instrument at a time.
 - a) Play the recording and start by recreating the beat.
 - b) Then, search for a bass line.
 - c) Next, look for catchy riffs or ostinatos.
 - d) Save the melody for last.
- 4 Allow students to divide into small groups to listen to their song (headphones and headphone splitters are a great way to convert a small classroom space into separate listening areas. Try to keep stronger singers in separate groups to ensure there will be a lead voice in each group)
- 5 Circulate the room to ensure students are listening to the recording and searching for parts.
- 6 Invite students to record their ideas so they do not forget them as they are layering.
- 7 Invite students to perform their finished product.

Extension:

More advanced students can try to translate figure out the key, chords or riffs of the song by ear using keyboards, guitars, JamCards, etc.

National Core Arts Standards (Music):

Anchor Standard #1: Generate and conceptualize artistic ideas and work. Anchor Standard #2: Organize and develop artistic ideas and work. Anchor Standard #3: Refine and complete artist work. Anchor Standards #4: Analyze, interpret and select artistic work for presentation. Anchor Standard #5: Develop and refine artistic work for presentation.

