Rhetorical Analysis Song Project

Rhetorical means "the art of using language effectively and persuasively," while analysis means "the separation of an intellectual or substantial whole into its constituent parts for individual study."

Thus, this Rhetorical Analysis assignment asks you to carefully read a selected piece of writing (song lyrics), examining it not only for what it says, but for HOW it says it. You should aim for "critical distance" in your reading of the text, which means that you'll want to be wary of whatever assumptions you bring with you to the text. For your analysis, you may choose any song of your choice; however, it needs to have appropriate language and content for classroom use. Keep in mind, some songs will be easier to write a rhetorical analysis than others.

To accomplish a rhetorical analysis, you must ask yourself:
- What goes on in this reading?
- What is its purpose?
- How does it persuade?
- How does it attempt to convince the reader?
- So...when you write a rhetorical analysis, you are dissecting the language of the piece. Since you're looking closely at the way the singer uses language, you'll want to use quotations from the song as evidence to convince your reader of the truth of your observations.

**YOUR TASK**
You will select a (classroom appropriate) song of your choice to present to the class. This song must have a clear, appropriate message for a specific audience. Select your song wisely. You will create a PowerPoint where you present a thorough rhetorical analysis of your song. This PowerPoint will focus on its message, its audience, its ethos, its pathos, its logos, and its style. You will provide a minimum of two direct quotes for each rhetorical element as examples, and then you will explain HOW your direct quote represents each rhetorical element. You will then play the song in class as we watch over the lyrics on the powerpoint. You will demonstrate your PowerPoint and explain your analysis.

**STEPS TO THE PROJECT**
- Pick a classroom appropriate song and copy and paste your song onto a Word Document. (Make sure to write down the name of the website and the URL where you found your lyrics to avoid plagiarism).
- Make sure your song title and song artist is at the top of the page
- Make sure the font of the song lyrics is at least 16 point (so all students can see the lyrics)
- Create a PowerPoint
- Bring a classroom appropriate audio of the song to class so we can listen to it while you present