

Secondary 13

Beyond the Instruments

Dr. Sarah Gulish

Grade Level/Class

Upper Secondary Grades
50 Minute Music Class

Overall Theme

As they are manufactured, brought to market, and used, musical instruments can come to represent something beyond themselves: works of art, catalysts for cultural change, sanctuaries of comfort and connection, expressions of revolutionary vision, and so much more.

Essential Questions

1. What connects instrument manufacturers and artists who use the instruments?
2. How do instruments contribute to artistry, sanctuary, and change?
3. How can we use music and tools in music to share our own voices?

National Standards

Create

MU:Cr1.1.T.HSI.a Generate melodic, rhythmic, and harmonic ideas for compositions or improvisations using digital tools.

Respond

MU:Re9.1.T.HSI.a Evaluate music using criteria based on analysis, interpretation, digital and electronic features, and personal interests.

Connect

MU:Cn11.0.T.HSI.a Demonstrate understanding of relationships between music and the other arts, other disciplines, varied contexts, and daily life.

Student Learning Outcomes

By the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

1. Define instruments that were catalysts of change.
2. Connect instrumental advances with artistry, sanctuary, and change.
3. Develop lyrics for a song on a personal topic of interest.

Materials Needed

1. S13 Presentation

2. Writing Utensil
3. S13 Worksheet

Procedures

Lesson Introduction (10 Min):

- Teacher (T) invites Students (S) to complete a five-minute journal on the prompt, "What is one thing in your life that was a catalyst for change?" T can provide examples to help students get started (Getting sick from a certain food made you change how you ate, being treated poorly by a friend made you redefine your friend group, etc.)
- After five minutes, T invites S to share some of their answers.
- T explains that today the S will be learning about how instruments sometimes take on meaning other than their original intent. Instruments can become works of art through incredible craftsmanship; instruments can be reinterpreted beyond their original intentions to inspire creativity; instruments can bring together community in times of adversity.

Lesson Body (30 Min):

- T shares the Google slideshow showing instruments taking on a variety of meanings.
- T breaks students into four groups to create presentations on how musical instruments have been used in three ways:
 - Artistry
 - Sanctuary
 - Change
- S will have 10 minutes to research their topic and create a presentation that defines how their examples show music "beyond the instruments" with facts and video examples
- After 10 minutes, each group will take turns sharing their slideshow with the other groups and use their case studies to show the theme.

Assessment Strategies

Wrap-up and Assessment (10 Min):

- Using the theme of music as a catalyst for change, S will complete a 10-minute brainstorm on a topic they care about and develop song lyrics for an area they'd like to see change.
- S will turn in their slideshows and lyric sheets at the end of the class.

Extensions/Adaptations

Extensions

- This lesson would be great as a jumping-off point for creating full protest songs. Students could take their lyrics and turn them into a song either alone or in groups.
- If working without devices, the teacher can share case studies with the entire class and complete listening examples together.

- For students in need of modifications, the teacher can pair students and designate a “scribe” for each group.

Adaptations

- Use closed captions for videos, and allow text-to-speech for any required readings
- Allow students to use speech-to-text to dictate their answers rather than writing
- Provide students with synonyms and context for the word Catalyst
- Set a 10-minute visual timer for group work, giving a five-minute check-in and one-minute warning
- Give students sentence stems or topic starters when writing their song lyrics

Spotlight on Careers in Music

This lesson plan can be tied to specific careers in music:

- Music Engineer
- Instrument Manufacturer
- Performer

For comprehensive information on careers in the music industry, please visit [Consider a Career in Music](#)