

## Lesson 2: Controversial Musicians

### Famous Musicians Who Are Wrapped Up In Controversy

While most people may name famous musicians as their idols, it can be hard to keep in mind that there are numerous controversies surrounding some of music's most prominent icons both alive and dead. While some controversies might be more severe surrounding some artists than others, there are usually some things about any given artist that a certain group of people don't like or approve of. So, here are some artists that are shrouded in controversy, whether it's Elvis moving his hips 70 years ago or Ozzy Osbourne eating live animals on stage.

#### **The Dixie Chicks Got Political And Lost Fans**

At one point, the Dixie Chicks were one of the most popular country trios in the world. However, they became extremely controversial when they performed in London at the beginning of the invasion of Iraq. While performing their song "Travelin' Soldier," they stopped to say "Just so you know, we're on the good side with y'all. We do not want this war, this violence and we are ashamed that the president of the United States is from Texas."



After the US media picked up on the story, the Dixie Chicks became one of the most polarizing bands in the world. Soon after, people began boycotting the band while others stood behind them and their beliefs.

#### **Michael Jackson Was Always The Center Of Controversy**



Dubbed the "King of Pop," it's no doubt that Michael Jackson was one of the most popular entertainers in the world as well as one of the best-selling artists of all time. Although he had grown into a global icon, his career was a magnet for a fair amount of controversy. One of the first allegations against Jackson was in 1993 when a 13-year-old boy accused Jackson of sexually abusing him.

Although those allegations were acquitted, a decade later, there was another round of child abuse allegations, causing people to label him as a child molester. There were other controversies involving his own children as well. On one occasion, Jackson held his young daughter Blanket out of a three-story balcony, leading people to question if he was fit to be a parent.

#### **Kanye West Never Fails To Speak His Mind**

Kanye West is one of the most popular and controversial musicians of our time. Today, he is more than just a musician and is also a record producer, entrepreneur, and fashion designer. While he may be an incredibly successful individual, outspoken views on life, politics, race, and religion always gain massive media attention.



His actions that are the most controversial are the ways he has conducted himself at award shows, what he writes on social media, and some of the people that he surrounds himself with. However, he never fails to speak his mind, even if it means losing fans or being openly disapproved of by his wife.

### **Miley Cyrus Turned Wild In 2013**

Miley Cyrus first rose to fame starring as Miley Stewart on the Disney Channel series *Hannah Montana*, which aired from 2006 until 2011. During that time, she released a series of pop albums which made her one of the most beloved and popular pop stars at the time. However, in 2013, her demeanor changed when she wanted to break away from her Hannah Montana and good-girl persona.

This was evident in her 2013 album *Bangerz* which had many parents of young fans disgusted by Cyrus' lyrics, dancing, and glorification of drug use. There was also the incident at the 2013 VMAs in which Cyrus was acting inappropriately with Robin Thicke. However, she has calmed down in recent years and has been mostly forgiven for what has been considered her rebellious phase.



### **Ozzy Osbourne Sets The Bar For Living The Rock And Roll Lifestyle**

Ozzy Osbourne rose to prominence as the frontman for the legendary heavy metal band Black Sabbath, and was once considered to be the father of heavy metal. Aside from his unbelievable intake of alcohol and drugs, his antics both on and off stage earned him a reputation that has yet to be matched by anyone. He has bitten the heads off of doves in front of record executives and bats in front of live audiences.

He is also known for snorting ants, urinating in people's beverages at dinner, and is rumored to be a satanist. He has also been sued for supposedly supporting suicide in his music and is generally disliked by people outside of the heavy metal community.



### **Elvis Presley Wasn't Always Loved By All**



Although he is now referred to as one of the most influential musicians of all time and the "King of Rock and Roll," he wasn't always held in such high regard as he is today. In fact, it was actually quite the opposite. While the youth during that time loved the way that Elvis sang, and especially the way he danced, the older demographic was far from pleased.

They were deeply disgusted and offended by "Elvis the Pelvis" and thought that his music and dance moves were beyond inappropriate. The way he swung his hips and smiled at the crowd was provocative and something most people had never seen before.



Source:

<https://www.idolator.com/7686011/famous-musicians-who-are-wrapped-up-in-controversy?chrome=1>

**Read the text about other controversial musicians and complete the task.**

A) Elvis Presley	B) Kanye West	C) Miley Cyrus
D) Ozzy Osbourne	E) The Dixie Chicks	F) Michael Jackson

<b>According to the article, which person.....</b>	<b>Musician (A-F)</b>
1. Lost support / fame upon returning to their home country	
2. Is not afraid to voice his/her opinions	
3. Image changed from kid-friendly to provocative within two years	
4. Had a huge adolescent following	
5. Publicly announced their political opinions	
6. Was questioned about his/her parenting abilities	
7. Is successful not only as a musician	
8. Has recovered from a rebellious moment in his/her life	
9. Used animals in an untraditional way	
10. Is / was an idol for a specific genre of music	
11. Had overtly sexual dance moves	
12. Was involved in a "he said-she said" scandal	