INSTRUCTOR: MARLON HERNÁNDEZ SALAS



Music has always been more than just sound—it's a force. It moves people, fuels revolutions, inspires change, and sometimes... gets banned. Across history, governments and institutions around the world have feared the power of music to stir emotions and ideas. The result? Entire genres have been silenced, censored, or outright banned. From jazz to rock, hip-hop to heavy metal, music has often found itself on the frontlines of cultural and political battles.



LIVEWORKSHEETS

FAMOUS SONGS THAT WERE BANNED *and Why*

Music expresses ideas, but sometimes those ideas are too controversial for some people.

WATCH THIS VIDEO



#	SONG	ARTIST	REASON FOR CENSORSHIP OR BAN	WHERE IT WAS BANNED OR CENSORED
1	**Imagine**	John Lennon	Religious and political ideas	Some radio stations in the United States after 9/11
2	**Like a Prayer**	Madonna	Religious controversy	Restricted in parts of Italy
3	**Born in the U.S.A.**	Bruce Springsteen	Political controversy	Some radio restrictions in the United States
4	**Billie Jean**	Michael Jackson	Temporarily restricted because of controversy around the artist	Some stations in New Zealand
5	**God Save the Queen**	Sex Pistols	Criticism of the monarchy	Banned by the BBC in the United Kingdom
6	**I Want to Hold Your Hand**	The Beatles	Considered too provocative in some places in the 1960s	Restricted in some conservative radio stations
7	**Smells Like Teen Spirit**	Nirvana	Edited for explicit lyrics	Radio censorship in the United States
8	**Poker Face**	Lady Gaga	Sexual references	Censored versions played in several countries
9	**Shape of You**	Ed Sheeran	Some lyrics edited for radio	Radio edits in multiple countries
10	**WAP**	Cardi B & Megan Thee Stallion	Explicit sexual content	Banned or heavily censored on radio and TV in several countries
11	**Rolling in the Deep**	Adele	Minor lyric edits for radio	Edited in some countries
12	**Gangnam Style**	Psy	Banned by one TV network because of a scene involving property damage	South Korea
13	**Hotel California**	Eagles	Misinterpreted as promoting negative values	Restricted in some schools and radio stations
14	**Bohemian Rhapsody**	Queen	Some lyrics considered controversial	Limited radio play in a few countries
15	**Baby One More Time**	Britney Spears	Criticism of the music video and image	Restricted by some TV programs

> Music has power. Understanding different opinions makes us better listeners and better people.



B-1

Teacher Marlon

LIVEWORKSHEETS



VOCABULARY ABOUT MUSIC CENSORSHIP



		WORD	MEANING	EXAMPLE SENTENCE
1		Censorship	Control of music, media, or information.	Some countries use censorship on music and TV shows.
2		Ban	To officially prohibit something.	The radio decided to ban the song.
3		Lyrics	The words of a song.	The song's lyrics were controversial.
4	PARENTAL ADVISORY EXPLICIT CONTENT	Explicit	Containing offensive or adult content.	The album has explicit language.
5		Controversy	Strong public disagreement.	The music video created a big controversy.
6		Violence	Physical harm or aggression.	The song was criticized for promoting violence.
7		Political	Related to government or politics.	The artist shared a political message in the song.
8		Religious	Connected to religion.	Some people disliked the song for religious reasons.
9		Broadcast	To play on TV or radio.	The station refused to broadcast the song.
10		Restriction	A rule that limits something.	There were age restrictions for the concert.
11	#!	Offensive	Rude or upsetting.	Some listeners found the lyrics offensive.
12		Message	The main idea communicated.	The song's message was about equality.
13		Public Opinion	What people think about something.	Public opinion changed after the interview.
14		Freedom of Speech	The right to express opinions freely.	Artists often defend freedom of speech.
15		Protest Song	A song criticizing social or political problems.	The band wrote a protest song about war.
16	NEWS	Media	TV, radio, newspapers, and the internet.	The media talked about the banned song for weeks.
17		Scandal	A shocking or controversial event.	The performance caused a huge scandal.
18		Influence	The power to affect people's ideas or behavior.	Music can influence young people.
19		Audience	The people who watch or listen.	The audience loved the concert.
20		Content Warning	A notice about sensitive material.	The video included a content warning at the beginning.

MUSIC HAS POWER. WORDS HAVE IMPACT. THINK, LISTEN AND RE

LIVEWORKSHEETS

BANNED SONGS

AND THEIR IMPACT ON ARTISTS



CENSORED

SILENCING MUSIC SILENCES VOICES.

MUSIC IS NOT A CRIME

MUSIC CAN INSPIRE.
WORDS CAN CHALLENGE.
CENSORSHIP CAN HURT.

B-1 ENGLISH DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Do you think songs should be censored? Why or why not?
2. Which reason for censorship surprised you the most?
3. Can censorship affect an artist's career?
4. Should governments control music content?
5. What kinds of songs are controversial today?
6. Do young people listen more carefully to lyrics today?
7. Should schools allow songs with bad language at school events?
8. Can music change people's opinions or behavior?
9. Why do controversial songs become popular?
10. Do you think social media increases music censorship?
11. Should artists be free to say anything in their songs?
12. What topics in music make people uncomfortable today?
13. Have you ever stopped listening to a song because of its lyrics?
14. Do parents worry too much about the music teenagers listen to?
15. Which singer or band has caused the biggest controversy in recent years?
16. Should streaming platforms remove offensive songs?
17. Is censorship different in every country? Give examples.
18. Can controversial music start important conversations in society?
19. Why do some people enjoy rebellious or shocking music?
20. Do you think censorship protects people or limits freedom?

"WHEN WE BAN SONGS, WE DON'T STOP MUSIC. WE STOP UNDERSTANDING."



LISTEN. THINK. DECIDE

LIVEWORKSHEETS