

Title: How Much Are You Willing to Pay for Free Music?

Date: 10 Oct. 2010

Grade: 5-6

Subject: Music

URL: http://www.newsy.com/videos/80_000_a_song/



Teacher Information: This video is a great lesson and discussion starter on the possible consequences of illegally downloading music. This can also lead to discussions of other online copyright issues including movies and software. The video sites various news sources and their reactions including opinions indicating that the fine was excessive.

Phase	Task(s)	Time
Preparation	Display the question “How Much Are you Willing to Pay for Free Music?” on the board on in a Smart Notebook slide. Give students 1-2 minutes to discuss this with a shoulder partner (set a timer). Ask a few students to share their partner’s answer with the rest of the class. (There may be several students who are confused by the question or think the answer is simply “nothing.” This will be clarified in the new few steps.)	5 min
Watch	As a class, watch the Newsy.com video “\$80,000 a Song” from the Newsy website. http://www.newsy.com/videos/80_000_a_song/	1:47 min
Re-watch and answer	Re-watch the video and discuss with the same shoulder partners the potential price of free music. What did the question “How Much Are You Willing to Pay for Free Music” really mean? Is music downloaded illegally really free? What does illegally downloaded music cost? Who does it cost? What are the possible consequences? Watch the BrainPop Video “Copyright” to define what copyright is and what it protects. You may go through the quiz as a class, or create a Mouse Mischief quiz using the questions from the BrainPop quiz that students can answer in the groups created in the next step.	
Group Work	Divide the class into groups of 3-4 students. Take the Mouse Mischief quiz for the BrainPop video. Each person in the group takes turns answering the questions after the group has had time to discuss the question and	

	<p>the possible answers.</p> <p>Display the website containing this opinion article from the <i>Edmonton Journal</i> on the SmartBoard. Read the passage as a class. Point out this is opinion and check to make sure they remember and understand the difference between fact and opinion.</p> <p>Give each group a piece of paper with the following questions to answer as a group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which opinions do you agree with? Which do you not agree with? Why? • Does the statement “the artist's album is no longer a product, but is instead an advertisement or promotional tool to get people to pay to see a live performance” good reasoning or just an excuse to download music illegally without feeling guilty? • Do you think the author is being honest when he says “if it weren’t for illegally downloading music, I would not be a music fan?” • Even if artists are making money from live performances, is illegally downloading their music still taking something that belongs to them without paying for it? • Is downloading a song without buying it different than taking a CD from a store without buying it, or sneaking into a concert without buying a ticket? <p>As the groups finish, invite them to come to the SmartBoard and summarize their discussion or opinions about downloading music on a blank slide (NoteBook file).</p>	
Discussion	Use the entries on the NoteBook slide to begin a full class discussion on the topic and share ideas with the class. Allow individual groups to explain their contribution to the wall or defend their opinions to the rest of the class.	

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Extended Learning Activities – Optional

Parent Involvement	Encourage students to have a discussion with their parents about the expectations of computer use at home. Encourage students to look for legal sources of music with help from their parents.	varies
Research	Students will research legal ways to obtain and share music. Students will research fair use and what it allows.	varies
Research	Students will research what rights they have to the music that they buy legally (including downloads and CDs). (Can they share it? How many devices can they legally have the song on? etc.)	varies
Report	Students will share sites with the class that offer legal ways to obtain music. Students will find a recent article on downloading music through EbscoHost or NewsBank and share a summary	varies

	of the article with the class.	
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Looking for related resources? Check out...

eThemes: Cyberethics: Downloading Music from the Internet

<http://ethemes.missouri.edu/themes/674>

These sites highlight the debate about downloading music from the Internet for free. Watch videos of musicians expressing their thoughts on the issue. There is also information about copyright law and explanations about why these types of downloads are considered illegal and unethical. These sites are helpful for teachers who want students to debate the issue. There are links to eThemes Resources on Internet safety and computer basics.

Teaching Copyright

<http://www.teachingcopyright.org/>

This site contains lesson plans for a unit focused on copyright. Teacher resources are also listed on the site.

Taking the Mystery out of Copyright

<http://www.loc.gov/teachers/copyrightmystery/>

This is a general resource on copyright created by the Library of Congress. The information is presented in video or comic strip formats.

Copyright Kids!

<http://www.copyrightkids.org/>

This site addresses copyright in general and does not focus exclusively on digital downloads. Included in the site is a definition of copyright, links, sample letters asking for permission to copy a work, and how to register for copyright of a unique work.