Songs that Define a Generation

Every generation has an anthem or song that defines them. Music, as we’ve found out, is subjective and personal. Yet there are some songs, factoring in where those songs were played, (For example – an American wouldn’t think that the Korean song “Come Back Home” by Seotaiji would define their American cultural experience in the 1990’s) contribute very heavily to the generation it was played.

I have touched upon North American generational connections from 1968-2004 for this assignment. After 2004, I stopped caring because I moved away:

1. Say it loud, I’m Black and Proud - James Brown 1968

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j0A_N-wmiMo>

1. God Save the Queen – Sex Pistols 1976

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RvMxqcgBhWQ>

1. Don’t You Forget about Me – Simple Minds 1985

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CdqoNKCCt7A>

1. Fight the Power – Public Enemy – 1989

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mmo3HFa2vjg>

1. Smells Like Teen Spirit – Nirvana 1991

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hTWKbfoikeg>

1. Hey Ya \_Outcast 2003

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PWgvGjAhvIw>

1. Neighborhood #1 – Arcade Fire 2004

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VU_2R1rjbD8>

These seven songs are not the definitive voice of a 35-year period, but their lyrics were cutting edge; the songs themselves were completely new and fresh, daring and authentic.

Your job is to look for a connection between self and society. What is the song of your generation? Go through these questions for the criteria to be met:

1. Describe your generation in five descriptive words (Adjectives).
2. What is the music that you and your peers are into (if anything?) Who are your heroes? What is ‘popular’ now currently? How has that changed from your past? As a contrast, what is uncool? Be as specific as possible.
3. Focus on other areas of popular media (the collective) that have to do with your generation. What are they? Why are they important to you and your friends?
4. Create a slogan (phrase that is marketable) for your generation.
   1. Example: *We don’t care about your rules! Freedom unites us all!*
5. Choose a song that is an emblem (guidepost) for your generation **OR** goes with the slogan you’ve just created. Analyze that song using the “Tuneful Tuesday Generic Questions” (Part B)

**Part B:**

1. What did you like about the song's words? What were your favorite parts? Why? (Critical thinking)

2. Are the song's words like the words to any other song that you know? How are they similar or different? (Connections)

3. Is there anything in the song that reminds you of something in your own life? (Personalization)

4. Do you find any of the words or sentences interesting? Confusing? Unusual? (Style)

5. Did the songwriter include images that you find funny? Scary? Old-fashioned? Embarrassing? (Evaluation)

6. What senses does the songwriter use in this song? Sight? Smell? Hearing? Taste? Touch? (Style)

7. Why do you think the songwriter wrote this song? (Inference)

8. What is this song about? (Theme)