

Musical introduction.

For teachers with access to musical collections, the following chart lists songs, artist and issues that could be used for a great introduction activity. Have the students listen to any of the following songs, after you have previewed them, of course, for your district's rules. In groups try to analyze what the songs are about. This will give them an introduction to the issues behind activism in a fun way.

Song title	Artist	Issues
Freedom	Rage Against the Machine	Political prisoners and racism in America
Renegades of Funk	Rage Against the Machine	Activism*
Down and out in paradise	John Mellencamp	Poverty
The killing fields	Ice-T	Racism and poverty**
Blowing in the Wind	Bob Dylan	Racism
Cult of Personality	Living Color	Propaganda
Rest in Peace	Extreme	Anti-war
Vietnam	Country Joe and the Fish	Anti-war**
Ohio	Crosby-Stills-Nash- and Young	Anti-war
Find the cost of freedom	Crosby-Stills-Nash- and Young	Anti-war
They dance alone	Sting	Political prisoners
Bright Path	Jack Gladstone	The life story of Jim Thorpe
Mr. Wendel	Arrested Development	The homeless

* Recommend the video

** Only use the radio-edited version and check for content

Allow the students at least 2 to 3 minutes per song to discuss the meaning of the songs. This could easily be a two-day introduction lesson.