**Bad Song Assignment**Due by 11:59 on November 6

Worth 10% of Total Class Grade

Approx. 1250 Words

In this assignment, you will be writing an essay about a song that you don’t like (hate, even?) and arguing why you think the song is awful.

Later in the semester, you will be taking this essay and turning it into an audio essay.

According to the *Norton Field Guide to Writing*, there are four key features of an argument. First, you need “a clear and **arguable** position.” Next, you need to gather any “necessary background information” and make sure that you use “good reasons” to support your argument. Once you have an understanding of your argument and topic, you need “convincing evidence,” an “appeal to readers’ values,” a “trustworthy tone,” and finally a “careful consideration of other positions” (169-179).

While this is a bit of an unusual assignment, there are still some elements that are very traditional: you’re still providing details about a song, relating it to your own personal experience (disgust?) with the song, and making a personal plea as to why you think this song is garbage. Maybe it’s a song that you associated with a certain person, and your relationship with that person soured. Maybe it’s a song that you’ve heard over and over again to the point where you want to rip your ears off your head whenever you hear its first couple of notes. It might be a song that everyone else loves but you. Or, it could just be a song that you knew you hated the first time you heard it. It can be hard expressing your feelings about a song beyond “I hate it, it sucks,” and so this assignment is an experiment to get to the root of it all. It's not enough to simply state why you hate the song so much—you need to explain why it is terrible.

Think of the parts of the song that you utilize like how you use quotations: by bringing in outside sources like the song itself, you are providing backup for your argument.

While this isn’t a research paper, some light research might be necessary. Websites like Genius.com provide a comprehensive database of peer reviewed lyrics, which you should use to further your point. Also, you are expected to provide small biographical information about the song or artist, such as when it was recorded, or the artist’s own quotations about the crafting or legacy of the song.