

**TABLE OF CONTENTS:**

Prompt 1: What does the title of the song “We Shall Overcome” mean to you?	p. 2
Prompt 2: One verse of the song is simply “We are not afraid” repeated. Afraid of what?	p. 9
Prompt 3: Imagine you are singing this song. Who is your audience? What do they hear? How does that change if you are alone or with a group?	p. 15
Prompt 4: Is there a song you often return to in order to help you get through something difficult? What song? Why?	p. 24
Prompt 5: When I sing with others, my voice becomes a _____ and then it _____.	p. 32
Prompt 6: Protestors often adapt a song to reflect current circumstances. If you could add a verse to reflect our current time or your current truth, what would you add?	p. 37
Prompt 7: What title would you give your civil rights anthem?	p. 43
Prompt 8: Singing as an act of protest is powerful because_____.	p. 48

**Notes and recommendations:**

- This is a long document. It represents the writings of about 80 students in ENGL 122, ENGL 200, HIST 211, and HIST 212
- Each bullet point = one student response
- Some students answered all the prompts and some did not
- Pick a prompt (see p. #s above), read over the responses lightly/quickly and note what sticks out to you
- Copy/paste, type, or write out the lines on a separate document to have with you/be ready to share during our TH 10-11a WebEx session
- Do that again with another prompt if you are inspired/have the time

## Prompt 1: What does the title of the song “We Shall Overcome” mean to you?

- The title creates a picture of strength and perseverance. “We Shall Overcome” could mean anything for anyone, making it so that everyone can identify with it.
- Personally, the song title “We Shall Overcome” means that no matter what comes at us in life we need to keep pushing and pursuing our dreams. Nobody wins when they sit around waiting, nothing comes to you. You have to work for what you believe in and as a community we can overcome any obstacle as long as we put our minds to it.
- I think this is a song with great power and feeling. It makes you feel unstoppable as a group.
- “We Shall Overcome” to me means that being united pushes through what is to come.
- “We Shall Overcome”, to me, means that individuals should be able to overcome any obstacle given to us. Whether it's a challenge or not, we have people in the world who love us dearly and are able to be a helping hand, so do your best.
- The song “We Shall Overcome” has significant meaning to me. Although the song has the meaning of equality for African Americans during the civil rights movement, the song also has meaning in other contexts. To me the song speaks about injustices among marginalized communities, while also acknowledging that these communities can't fix the world by themselves. Real change requires a movement from people of all backgrounds, who are willing to sacrifice for people who may not necessarily look like them
- The title “we shall overcome” is a kind of motivation to me that we will get through these hard times
- To better ones self and better surroundings at the same time
- The title "We Shall Overcome" means to me that everyone in the world is human, and we must set aside our differences and love our neighbors. To me this song means that we, as a world, need to overcome racism, homophobia, and xenophobia tendencies in order to walk hand in hand with our neighbors.
- The title, "We Shall Overcome" means that no matter the obstacle we face, we will overcome it and come out stronger than we were before hand.
- In my opinion the title shines the importance of having the correct mindset to surpass any given struggles.
- To me, the phrase/title "We Shall Overcome" means to persevere through hardships and grow or strengthen from them

- This means to overcome the tragedy's you have faced.
- The title of this song means to me: Be not fearful, stand and be brave.
- It means that the oppressed that sing this anthem will overcome the pressures put on them. Specifically not that they "can," but that they will, because the use of "shall" is purposeful and deliberate. It isn't a lofty hope, but a guarantee.
- The title of the song means different things to be. I'm a big ally for the LGBTQ+ community, Black lives matter and women's rights. This world has seen horrific stuff when it comes to racism and homophobia. Find it crazy how we as a society not only for the world but specifically for the United States that we haven't gotten our act together. The last four years under President Trump I believe we fell back down through the rabbit hole and it's going to take a few years to climb back out of it. With all the lies, bigotry and racism the president has brought makes us the laughing stalk for the world. He's not the only one to blame for how we carry ourselves as a nation; it is decades of how the people of the United States react to one another as individuals and how we react to the leaders of this county. The song "We shall overcome" was written in 1901. Over 119 years ago and we still haven't made the country safer for people of color or LGBTQ+ community? We did make some things right but what we haven't is better training or learning for our police and criminal justice system and for people who identify with the LGBTQ+ communities their rights for being discriminated against isn't a thing. They can only get married and the "don't ask don't tell" policy went in effect from February 28, 1994 until September 20, 2011. There have been a lot of things to help out those communities but not enough to keep them from being harmed by the law. This song is still relevant today and I believe it will until the end of time unless we pull ourselves together.
- The title "we Shall overcome" can represent a lot regarding the challenges we are facing currently with racial injustices social and class injustices and even covid. The title represents the faith that these things will end and one-day peace will be made.
- For me, this is in reference to our modern way of life. We live in a time where hate is running rampant, honesty and loyalty are questioned on a daily basis, and there is fear everywhere. For me, this means there will be a day when the hate subsides, truth and loyalties will no longer be target of suspicion, and fear will no longer be used as a tool for compliance.
- What the title, "We Shall Overcome," means to me is that we all will overcome the obstacles in our lives some day and everything will work itself out. Everyone is fighting a battle you know nothing about. We will all get through everything life has to throw at us!
- The title makes me think of a small wave that grows until it is the moving force in the ocean
- The title of the song is a message of hope. It sends out a feeling that the issues that we face today will be overcome in the future and that our continued struggle will make a difference in the end

- It is an anthem of hope for the future
- “We Shall Overcome” means strength to me. It means fighting for justice in the world when there isn’t any that can be seen. “We Shall Overcome” for me means taking a stand against the tyranny and oppression in the world that so many have had to deal with for far too long. It means that no matter how long it takes, we as a country shall make a change in our society.
- The title “We Shall Overcome” means having the faith that you will persevere through rough or dark times. The title “we Shall Overcome” also has me reflecting on times when I have personally overcome obstacles in my life and the satisfaction I felt once I had defeated the barrier in my way. Furthermore, the title makes me reflect on the privileges I have as a white woman in America, as the obstacles I have to overcome are minor to those people of color and other minorities face
- We shall overcome means that no matter what we are going through, whether as an individual, or a nation, As long as we see we are together, supporting one another with love and care we can get through anything that hap
- What the title, “We Shall Overcome”, means to me is that through blood sweat and tears, I will prevail. I was born with a Cleft Palate, and that lead me to have nineteen surgeries in my twenty years of living. I have overcome great odds, but I have had to work for that right, and when I think of the title, “We Shall Overcome”, I think of hard work, blood, sweat, tears, hard ship, and one continuing on. I think hard ship and one fighting to get up the mountain. It makes me think of the song, “So Small” by Carrie Underwood, and there is a line that says, “Cause sometimes that mountain you've been climbing / Is just a grain of sand” (lines 8-9). If one wants to over come something, then I hope they plan on working hard
- This Title makes me think of American citizens, strangers even, binding together to fight for their freedoms and rights. Since the beginning of time we have fought for equality and peace, yet it is still something we struggle with today as a country. We Shall Overcome means we will finally break that barrier and be free of the discrimination and prejudices that exist, and finally reach peace
- The title of the song “We Shall Overcome” means, to me, that the “we” in the song - the singer(s) and the audience together - are going to come together to defeat whatever it is that is holding them down. They will overcome it, climb over and rise above it, and become better than they were before in order to do this
- The title “We Shall Overcome” means that it is time get over the obstacles that have been around for a long time. There are minorities in our world who have faced unimaginable hate, and it is time to unite as one to step over those bumps. Overcome means to defeat and prevail. Our country needs to back up the minorities in our world and defeat the hate they get. If we do not back each other up and stand together, there is no way that we can overcome any of these challenges.

- The title “We Shall Overcome” gives off a meaning of hope. What it means to me is that no matter what hard times someone may be having, we shall overcome the obstacles and brave through whatever may challenge us.
- The title of the song “We Shall Overcome” is very powerful to me. I like that it’s a bit vague, so it leaves some imagination for the audience. Each and every one of us is trying to overcome our own thing, big or small. So, with the title left alone it leaves room for the audience to add on their own thing that they want to overcome
- To me, the title of the song “We Shall Overcome” means hope. It means strength. It means determination. It means promise. It means that looking into the face of danger, into the darkest valleys, there will not be despair forever, but victory. There will be daylight, even though the night is dark and overwhelming. It means that no matter what is thrown in our way, government, violence, injustice we will not falter, but spring forth, upright, steadfast and immovable
- The title of the song “We Shall Overcome” means to me that no matter what one is going through they will get through it. I will overcome my depression and eating disorder. There is hope and light at the end of the tunnel. I shall overcome everything that is holding me back from expressing my full potential.
- The title of the song “We shall overcome” means to me that we together should overcome the racial injustice during the civil rights movement and we should all unite as one
- “We Shall Overcome” means that we can overcome anything if we all unite. We can overcome the small things, like having trouble finding a job or with a partner or something much bigger, like inequality and racism
- It highlights that there is hope for America. Although lately our country has been divided, with the new change, there is hope to bring us together. People have turned on others who they should have come together and be friends with. This song, to me, means that there is a bright future ahead for America, we all must rejoin with our neighbors instead of fighting them.
- For me, “We Shall Overcome” is a statement toward an aggressor. This statement is coming from a group that has been discriminated against and suppressed by a more powerful force. The idea here is that this group who has been beaten down will overcome their suppression and rise against these evil powers that stand against them.
- To me, hearing the words we shall overcome makes me think of unity and love. The act of overcoming something, no matter how big or small is incredibly hard. Overcoming something is not something you should have to do alone. The title “We Shall Overcome” makes me think of how we can come together and act in unity to overcome any problems that come our way. I know that sounds like a cheesy superhero movie line, but maybe that is exactly what we need. We need to see that we need unity and love. We need compassion to overcome every problem we come across. It makes me think of acceptance and how people who seek validation and acceptance from others

because they need it. Those people need a community to confide in to overcome their fears and insecurities. It is about coming together as a community to overcome the hardships, fears, insecurities, and everything in between to show that everyone matters.

- When I think of this title during today's society, I think that it means that we shall overcome all obstacles that America faces today. We shall overcome all the injustices that minorities face, we shall overcome all the hurt America has put people through. Not even just America though, but every country in this world that is facing hardships, which there are plenty. We shall overcome and come together as one. I believe that the title stands for coming together peacefully and becoming a greater world. If we all overcome America's failures and other countries' failures, we can finally come together and create peace within this world.
- The title "We Shall Overcome" means to me, unity, strength, faith and love
- The song title "We Shall Overcome" sends a hopeful message, especially in a time of such uncertainty. Personally to me this title means comfort and the importance of oneness in a community.
- The title " We Shall Overcome", means that you're overcoming something, you're confident and proud of yourself.
- To me, the title of the song "We Shall Overcome" means that despite the challenges life throws our way, we will adapt, persevere, and continue to thrive.
- The song title "We Shall Overcome" is about hope.
- The title of the song "We Shall Overcome" means to me that we as a country will overcome the inequality, racism, and separation, and someday be in peace with the world.
- The title of the song "We Shall Overcome" to me means a group of people standing together and showing that they will become strong and their voices will shine while people are constantly throwing them down and doubting them.
- The title, "We Shall Overcome" means that there is something that is oppressing people and that they will work to rid themselves of it. They see a brighter day on the horizon.
- When I read this, I am stuck with the feeling of finishing a long-fought adversity, something weighing on many for an extended period of time. The feeling of a great weight being lifted from many people, the validation of the efforts, the struggle and the oppression finally giving way to change
- The title of the song "We shall overcome" means a message of hope. It represents the certainty of a better future, where everybody will have equal rights and opportunities.

- The title “We Shall Overcome” to me, means that you have to have hope that you can overcome anything. No matter how hard or horrible, you keep that hope to overcome.
- It can be hard to maintain perspective, particularly in a year as bad as this one, as the winter comes and all that was green and blue fades to white and grey, even just getting out of bed can feel like a struggle. The election took up so much of my emotional energy these last few months and with it over--assuming, of course, that it *is* over-- even winning feels bad. Biden’s choices are predictably disappointing. Nobody is expecting *hope* or *change* this time, just a return to *normality*, but immigrant detention facilities, extrajudicial executions, and a war that never ends are normality now. The sixth extinction, biodiversity collapse, and the disappearance of ice caps are normality now. We are drowning in a sea of our own failures; normality is killing us. There is a song lyric which has always stuck with me, “I thought about how for thousands of years there have been people who told us that things can’t go on like this, from Jesus Christ to the diggers, from Malthus to Zerzan, from Karl Marx to Huey Newton, but the shit goes on and on and on...” When so when I hear my friends talk about ‘the rev’ or I hear a phrase like “We shall overcome,” sometimes I can’t help but roll my eyes, or sigh in resignation. Perhaps I am wrong, perhaps as Dr. King said, the arc of history does bend towards justice. It can be hard to feel that way though. So when I start to get too pessimistic, I try to remember what Margaret Atwood said, “We live in capitalism, its power seems inescapable – but then, so did the divine right of kings.” So I guess I do think we will overcome, someday. I just don’t have much energy left to believe that day is soon.
- The title, *We Shall Overcome*, is a very powerful and meaningful title. To me, it means that we will get through a situation, no matter what happens. It also is something that can mean hopefulness, as well as confidence.
- “We Shall Overcome” means coming together as people and as society to better ourselves and the world around us. It means fixing what is broken in the system with the power and voices we have. The world we live in today will make history and be something nobody will forget. Together we can overcome this and make history again in a positive way by fixing what is broken.
- To me, the title of the song “We Shall Overcome” gives a meaning of unity and adversity for racial justice.
- I see the title “We Shall Overcome” as a powerful statement. It’s not asking others to join in, it’s not doubting their perseverance, it’s a statement that whatever we are going through We Shall Overcome.
- The meaning of the song title “We Shall Overcome” to me means overcoming violence, discrimination, racism, sexism, and whatever one could be fighting for. Basically in the end, the song title is about overcoming inequality on many different levels.
- When I read the title of this song, the first thing that came to me was COVID. COVID is something that has changed our generation forever. We all have lost so many lives, our mental health for some has been destroyed, and people are without jobs. It’s something that has impacted not just the

United States but across the whole world. It's something that we all have to stick together through and believe that we will and can overcome this.

- The term "We Shall Overcome" means that everything that is going on in the world right now shall be overcome. We are strong and we can get through this tough time together
- The title of the song "we shall overcome" means to me overcoming every obstacle that comes in my way. This means that whatever life throws at me I will always get through it and that gives me a sense of power and courage to always keep pushing.
- This title makes me think of all that I have overcome through my life. Focusing on the word "overcome" I can imagine that this song is a song that is empowering and uplifting.
- I believe the poem has some type of protest, civil rights, jim crow era thought. The first couple sentences are a repeat, almost maybe a protest chant, or a verse used in church? The title screams hope, highs, and to overcome the lows. I feel as if this was used as a cry for help.
- The title of the song "We Shall Overcome" means to me that there is nothing that as a united people we cannot conquer through perseverance and determination.
- The title means overcoming various disadvantages that some may have in life. This could be bigger issues such as racism or sexism, or it could be as simple as concurring a fear of public speaking. Specifically, in regards to larger societal issues, smaller victories are important to celebrate. It can feel like no matter how far society has come, there is always more work to be done, but the advancements that have happened still matter and should justly be praised. This song celebrates both the smaller victories and leaves hope that every issue, big or small, will be resolved one day.
- That we will get through, we will push through with all our strength, all our courage, we will be able to finally see what is at the end of this journey. There is no battle we cannot fight; we will push through.
- This title to me means that somehow we will make it. Life right now is hard, but we will always land on our feet because we have to. There is no other choice but to push on, and we will be better and stronger for it.
- "We Shall Overcome"- To me this means that all people effected by any level of inequality shall someday meet the day that they are no longer discriminated against. Those that have gone through any level of hardship will gain the strength to mend their hearts and souls.
- That whatever hardships we're facing they're only temporary and we shall return to our everyday lives in due time.

## Prompt 2: One verse of the song is simply “We are not afraid” repeated. Afraid of what?

- It could mean being afraid of yourself, someone else, or something in your life. Stating “we are not afraid” releases us from the power of a negative force in our life holding us down.
- We are not afraid of anything. Our futures are unguaranteed, but that does not mean we should be scared. Fear is the root of all evil.
- This song was made during segregation times. Blacks were afraid of the hatred and violence towards them.
- The “We are not afraid” being repeated to me I personally believe that what this is sending a bigger message of what is to come in life we are not afraid as long as its not alone hence the “we”.
- We are not afraid, basically meaning that no matter what is being thrown or given to us, we are able to overcome.
- In my eyes the repeated phrase “we are not afraid” has a deep meaning. We are not afraid, in itself can be seen as untrue when it comes to fighting for civil rights. The backlash and hate that comes with fighting for rights can be terrifying. What I believe they mean by “we are not afraid” is that although we have every reason to be afraid we will not stop doing what is just, no amount of fear can stop us from fighting for what's right.
- Afraid of any problems or hard times that comes our way will. We will get through it
- Afraid of oppression and consequence
- "We are not afraid" refers to the idea of us fighting back. Perhaps in the current situation, many could fear COVID-19 or the effects it has had on us. Although we no longer can be afraid, we must stand up and fight.
- The fear many people feel is buried deep within societal norms. The fear of being chastised, pushed away, and ignored. Fear has control over many aspects of our life, yet we still try to fight for what is right, whether it be racial discrimination or abuse.
- Afraid of any obstacles or trials we face, I feel this simple line being repeated only emphasizes the value of it's words.
- Fear
- They aren't afraid of the change. The change needs to happen for things to become better.

- Not afraid to make a stand and be heard
- The stanza in questions refers to the fear of the oppressors. During and before the Civil Rights Movement fear was used by the oppressors to keep the oppressed in their place, but without fear there is no control. The lines “We are not afraid” is an affirmation of freedom.
- I believe “We are not afraid” refers to people who think there isn't a problem in the world. Such as systematic racism, sexism, homophobia, and xenophobia. Since the 1940's certain groups of people were discriminated against. Black people were discriminated against since the Europeans enslaved them and brought them over and ever since then have been a target to the white man. Minorities have tried to have their voices heard for decades and “We are not afraid” is that they won't stop until their voices are heard.
- The line “we are Not Afraid” can be interpreted as people having faith in themselves and are willing to fight against injustices and not back down this could be regarding current racial protests.
- We are not afraid to demand to be treated equally and with respect. We are not afraid to stand for stand for what we think is right. We are not afraid to ask for a change for the better.
- We shouldn't be/are not afraid of the obstacles life has to throw at us. We are all learning constantly and we shouldn't be afraid of anything. We are all strong. Life is hard!!!!
- I think this is just anything. They aren't afraid of those around them or what could happen by their speaking out. The things that scared the people in the group don't hold any weight anymore as they are all together now.
- The word overcome implies an obstacle. The verse “We are not afraid” is referring to the obstacle or obstacles that lie between us and our ideal world. At its heart it is saying, we are not afraid of what may try to stop us and the challenges we will face.
- Afraid of change, Afraid of equality, Afraid to fight for what you believe in.
- We are not afraid of police brutality. We are not afraid of racism. We are not afraid of sexism. We are not afraid of change. We are not afraid of fighting for what is right. We are not afraid of raising our voices and being heard by everyone around us. We are not afraid of telling the truth and demanding justice. That is what we are NOT afraid of.
- I think in the song “We Shall Overcome” the lyrics “We are not afraid” repeating, means that whatever the victim is facing at the hands of the oppressor does not scare them. It doesn't scare the oppressed because they can envision a future where they all will get along and overcome the tormentor

- This means to me that whatever happens we are not afraid to battle back and expose ourselves no matter the scenario for the rights and beliefs we aspire to promote together as one
- “We are not afraid” is repeated because it means that one’s fears will not hold them back to get what they want accomplished. It is so that even if they have fears they can stand by someone and feel strong by having someone by their side. It could also mean that they are not afraid of the journey that they must overcome day by day to get to their goal. They must keep going and focusing on their goal or their journey
- I interpret this line as not being afraid to fight for what they believe in. It is a powerful line that states they are there with purpose and they are there for a change.
- The “what” that we are not afraid of could be many things. I think it at least in part refers to a fear of rising to the challenge of whatever needs to be overcome. It also refers to whatever occasion the singer is performing the song for, and whatever reason the audience is listening. If it were sung at a black lives matter protest, for example, it would be saying that the singer and audience are not afraid to stand up to police brutality and racism. The “what” that we are not afraid of changes depending on why the song is sung.
- We are not afraid means that we do not have to worry about being alone. For a long time, people were scared to stand up for themselves. But after everything we have experienced this year, minorities have learned they are not alone. They have the support of everyone, and they are not and should not have that fear anymore. They should be able to live their lives without being afraid of discrimination, and I think they are starting to see that with all the movements that have been happening.
- The verse that contains “we are not afraid”, I believe, means that the singers of the song are not afraid of whatever they may run into. They are not afraid of whatever may happen to them because they know that they will overcome their downfalls
- The lines that repeat “we are not afraid” are also very powerful. I like to think in this present-day situation, the singers are not afraid to do whatever it takes to stay home and stay safe to end the pandemic.
- The strongest weapon that an oppressor has is fear. The cloud of uncertainty and fright loom over the heads of all who endure the trial of injustice. I would imagine that this verse is referring to the endless amount of injustice and violence that was pointed at its authors.
- This verse to me is talking about how we are not afraid of overcoming our problems. We were afraid of confronting and overcoming our issues for so long and finally, we are not afraid anymore
- I think when it said “We’re not afraid,” it meant that they’re not afraid of having their voices heard. They want to overcome adversity and are determined to do so

- We are not afraid of fighting for what we want and what we deserve. People who have been oppressed their whole lives are not afraid to fight and speak out against racism and unfair treatment. We are not afraid to speak our minds and share our thoughts. We are not afraid of your threats to stop us and your unkind words. We are not afraid to be heard.
- This could mean many different things, there are multiple scenarios that are terrifying to modern day Americans. This could be being afraid of a corrupt government, a completely divided America (possibly leading to a civil war?), an increased level of hate crimes, etc.
- This is referring to being afraid of whatever their aggressor throws at them. I feel like here that would be a form of injustice. Whether it be unlawfully killing people of this group, denying people of this group their rights, or simply looking down on people for being a part of this group. They are saying they are not afraid of the injustice their aggressors show them, because eventually justice will prevail.
- I think that people live in fear of acceptance and the thoughts of others. I know I do, I live in fear of what others might think of me or what I do. I change myself so that I don't have to deal with this. I think that this verse references that we are not afraid anymore of this stupid mist people use to intimidate others. This verse is saying we need to lift this veil and accept that people may not like things, but you have to love yourself and not be afraid of what others think. We are the only ones who can make a difference, us right now. By not being afraid anymore, we can act with power.
- I believe that this verse is saying we are not afraid anymore of what the world has prepared for us next. I think that along with the title in overcoming situations that if we overcome everything, we will not be afraid of what is to come next because no matter what we will all be together peacefully.
- I believe they are referring to the injustice that is happening around our nation, that they are not afraid to stand up for what is right, and they are not afraid of the backlash for doing so.
- I believe when the song repeats “We are not afraid” it is referring to life in general. It’s a powerful message that says no matter what happens to us and how people treat us we will stay in our faith and be okay. Love and unity always win against hate, and that is what this song is referring to. As long as we stick to that love and unity we should never be afraid to stand up for what’s right. There is always a bigger force at work.
- “We are not afraid’, Afraid of being themselves. They're not afraid of what we can change.
- We are not afraid of what is to come because we will be able to succeed and will rise to challenges and difficulties we face.
- The line after states, “we are not afraid of today”. I think the purpose surrounding the vagueness of this line expresses the multitude of things those who are oppressed fear on a daily basis.
- “We are not afraid” to overcome these struggles and grow as individuals to benefit the country.

- Afraid of losing and getting hurt in the process of throwing their voices out to educate people on what they believe.
- Not afraid of the people who are A. oppressing them and B. trying to stop them from overcoming it. For African Americans and other disenfranchised peoples, this would be people like MAGA, the political right, and Blue Lives Matter.
- Those trying times are the cause of fear, but those with the drive for embitterment and the courage to move through adversity and pain will lead through this effort. That is what this verse means to me.
- They were not afraid of failure in the Civil Rights. They were not afraid of what race or social and economic background they come from.
- When it says “We are not afraid” it means that they are not afraid to overcome today. No matter the obstacle, they are not afraid to overcome it.
- Sometimes songs are about manifestation, about creating your reality through repetition and the power of actualization. Of course we are afraid. We are afraid of the cops, afraid of the politicians, and afraid of the people who support and enable systems of oppression through inaction or their own fears. We cannot, however, let ourselves be overwhelmed by fear, such that it leads to inaction, or allow the enemy to know that we are afraid, lest they feel it is within their power to stop us. We need to be stronger than we are and seem less vulnerable than we are.
- There is a verse that mainly talks about not being afraid. They are referring to the injustice that people color face, and the fact that so many people in this world are not united. Although this can bring chaos and madness to a society, they are not scared of the consequences because they have faith.
- We the people of America are not afraid to fight and stand up for what we believe in, we are not afraid to speak out and change what is happening in this world. My generation has a voice and we are LOUD, we have spoken out more than any generation has before and we are here.
- When the song states, “We are not afraid”, I believe it is directed towards the historic consequences of fighting racial injustices. In the civil rights movements in the 60’s it was extremely dangerous to voice your opinion about topics like racial injustice. The writer of the song I believe is very aware how difficult it can be to fight for your rights. They know that death is a common occurrence through history while battling for basic human rights like these.
- I’m assuming they aren’t scared to make a statement and make noise, they aren’t afraid to stand up and be proud of who they are. Times are changing and as every year passes minorities gain more strength and power as racism isn’t just frowned upon but punished.

- I would say that the meaning of “We are not afraid” being repeated multiple times is to prove that they are not afraid of the people attempting to go against them. They are not afraid of being hurt fighting for their own rights. They are strong and willing to overcome any obstacles to get what they want.
- I think this is referring to the media and how much it has scared everyone due to the virus. It is something to be afraid of, but we are not afraid that we cannot overcome it.
- I think that saying “We are not afraid” means that we are not afraid of change. Out of everything going on right now, I feel this saying implies that we are not afraid to adjust to everything and get through the situation that we are in.
- I believe that when they say “we are not afraid” they mean they are not afraid to keep pushing and overcome the obstacles they are going to face.
- Thinking of overcoming and not being afraid I imagine the song is challenging the listener to not be afraid of anything that comes their way. You can be afraid of anything and allow that fear to control you or stop you. You may not even know what you are afraid of, but the repetition here will encourage you to keep moving forward.
- Afraid of the past, the antebellum period, the grueling nightmare of the white man. I think this was used for a bold move, to show the rest of the country that the black community was tired of being used in the past, and that they have a future for themselves.
- This verse is stating that we are not afraid of the resistance that may come with change.
- We are not afraid of those who would hurt us. We are not afraid of those who would rather us be gone than allow us to change the world. We are not afraid of those who hate us for living our truest, most fulfilling lives. It is often because of fear that people stay oppressed. People are afraid of the punishment for rising up, or maybe even afraid of what life would look like for them with freedom. Luckily, fear is temporary, and true progress will last forever.
- Losing hope, losing the sense of normalcy. Not afraid of change, change for the good, not afraid to change the ways of the world and push through for a better tomorrow.
- People are afraid of many things, but one thing I really struggle with uncertainty. The idea that nothing is set in stone and everything could break in a moment.
- We are not afraid of the trials and tribulations we may face that will bring us closer to triumph.
- Afraid of the future, afraid of what may be next.

### Prompt 3: Imagine you are singing this song. Who is your audience? What do they hear? How does that change if you are alone or with a group?

- I would like to sing this song to someone who is facing challenges--whether that be discrimination, humiliation, oppression, or harm. This is an encouraging song, uplifting. My hope would be that they hear it and gather strength from it. If I were in a group, I would feel as if I were singing the song to others. If I were alone, it would feel more like I was encouraging myself.
- If I were singing this song my audience would be my sisters. They hear the strength to push on in my voice, to carry out anything now matter how unreachable it may seem.
- I believe if I were these people singing this song that I would be in an area where only my fellow workers would be so only they would be my audience. They may or may not join and sing with me. I feel that some would be afraid and may be punished for singing a song like that because it goes against the whites. As a group the song, as I said before, shows strength more than if you were singing it alone.
- If I am singing this song I imagine my audience to be my friends and family. If I did not have an audience to sing this to I would feel more alone.
- I see my audience being maybe women and men, aged around 20's or 30's. It'll be different if you are alone or in a group because being alone helps a person to better think and understand but also being in a group might make you feel the message as far as being loved and having someone there.
- When singing this song you may see diverse groups with you, also fighting for human rights, you may also see a group of people looking to harm you for what you believe. Although you may sing this alone or with a group of people it still carries the same meaning. When fighting for rights it does not matter if a thousand people or know one is listening, because it's not about the appearance that you give, it is about what you believe in
- My audience would be people going through trouble and hard times in their lives. They hear me singing and get motivation that this time will pass and peace will come back again. It does help if you are in group because it helps to gain motivation and courage from each other
- Those who oppress me/my group. My voice and or position on how I feel. Can alter the strength behind the message.
- I feel that I could chant this song along side many others at the feet of our capital, demanding we work together to overcome this pandemic. The audience could be members of the community and or state and local governments. I believe the government hears a faint mumble, not fully understanding the words we chant. Being alone, makes that mumble silent, however the more people the more we stand out.

- My audience would be my family, the message I believe they would take from this song is we can overcome all challenges as long we have the strength of each other to lean on. If i was alone and reading the song this song would just encourage me to continue to push forward for myself
- My audience would be the world. They would hear a voice of strength and power in such a way that would spark hope and even joy. This would not change according to the scale of my audience.
- The audience I see for this song is some type of protest or sit in. I also have a very strong feeling of 70s for some reason. The Audience is going to hear the struggles in their voices but will also hear the sadness that they are feeling. I don't think the meaning will change even if the person was alone or in a group, but I think this song has a better hold with a group setting sing because it talks about being together.
- For this song, my audience is everyone. The reason I say this is because I think that young people should understand the centuries of hurt that have been inflicted on Americans. The older audience will appreciate the progress that has been made, even if it has been slow. It is a song that can bridge the gap between young and old. I feel in this song they hear hope. Hope is something that cannot be taken away from humans. There is a song that comes to mind when I think about this song, it was from 1986, "We are the World". (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p34sK9AYQN4>) (My mom and her friend were reliving their 80's awhile ago and she made us listen to this.)
- If this song were to come from me, it would be directed to anti-LGBTQ+ groups. I'm bi and queer, and I have deep roots in the LBGTQ+ group, which is oppressed all over the world. I'm not too worried about myself, however, as my outward appearance conceals that aspect of myself, but for all of my trans brothers and sister, openly queer people, etc, that's where my sadness and tears come from. I think that being in a group bolsters one's resolve and confidence, and so if sang in a group as opposed to alone, my voice would waver less and be louder than it would be otherwise.
- The audience could be the ignorant people, the people who don't think there is a problem. Another audience is people who want to learn and help minorities get through hard times. I believe they hear determination. I think the message is different when you're alone because people will only see a one person problem then a world full of problems. Martin Luther King jr had a group of people of color and white people come together. If you have people from different backgrounds, the people with the same background of one person who is in the movement group might change that person's mind.
- My audience would be those eager to fight against social and racial injustices my point would better be interpreted by a diverse group with me rather than alone because I don't represent all diverse groups who are facing discrimination and that might buffer by the ability to portray what I'm truly speaking on.
- I imagine this song would start as a Capella solo and would gradually add more voices to the verses as the song goes on until a whole choir is singing. This would be to signify that it just takes one person to start a movement. In my head this would be sung during a march and the audience would be the marchers themselves and bystanders.

- If I were singing this song I feel as if it were to protest against/towards something or shedding light on a group or anyone that needs some encouragement or inspiration that they will get past whatever it is that you are going through.
- I would sing this song to a person or group that has held me back in some way. They would hear my pain and growth. If I am with a group then it becomes more powerful, none of us would be sitting back and letting things continue as they were.
- An audience for this song could be people that have lost or are losing hope. People that may not wish to continue fighting for the future they believe in. This song could act as a rally to give people hope to continue fighting for what they believe in, something to reinvigorate people. If you were to sing this alone it could send the message that every person is important to make a change. If you sing with a group it could send the message that people are not alone in their struggles.
- The First image that pops into my head is a bunch of hippies lounging in a group in the middle of summer. They are cheering in agreement with the lyrics
- If I were to sing this song to a group of people to try and get the message across, I would be singing it to a diverse audience of citizens around the country. This way, they can hear the sense of unity wanted toward change, and the want for peace through the United States
- The song “We Shall Overcome” was made popular during the civil rights movement, although this song was a gospel song it found itself at the forefront of history. I believe if I was to be singing this song I would also be chanting it during a protest for equal rights, which isn’t hard to imagine in our current political climate. I would hope people would believe what they hear in the song, that we will find ourselves one day having overcome adversity. I believe this song whether sung alone or with a group can radiate power.
- I see this song being sung at a veterans day memorial, being sung by a soldier to his crew before jumping into war. I see this as a very independent song that motivates Americans to do some American type activities like barbeque, Beach days and waving an American flag to promote our country. I think hearing this alone makes you think about your individual self and how you personally can attribute this type of message into your life, while in a group it becomes more energetic, and loud as the group gets excited about the message
- If I were singing this to myself, it would be after a long stressful day, and it would pick me up to keep myself motivated and focus on the task at hand and it will work out eventually. It is a ballad of just to keep on keeping on. If there are several people, and they are listening it more like an anthem to stand together to get through something together. It is an anthem for one to keep going when it is just one listening, but then when more people are listening it becomes an anthem to stand together to get through something

- If I were singing this song today I would imagine I'd be singing it at a rally or at a peaceful protest, or it even makes me think of something someone would sing at the funeral or vigil of someone who passed because of a hate crime. They would hear passion and intensity in my voice, equivalent to saying enough is enough. In a group it seems more like a message, a sign of hope and persistence to band together, but if I was singing it alone it seems more of a cry for help, something that is silently breaking my heart and needs a change
- When I imagine singing this song the person I am singing to is myself. I am my own audience, there to reassure myself and make myself keep fighting- remind myself that no matter what happens I will recover, and I will overcome. Even when others are around me, ultimately I am the only person in my life who I know I can fully depend on, and so I'm the person I want to tell this to. If I am singing to a separate audience, it would be every person who has said that the things I do don't matter. I would be refuting their point, telling them that my accomplishments and actions -and those of the people singing with me- have value and purpose, and that we are still pushing for the peace the song speaks of.
- The audience is the people who still live in hate. It is showing them that we are overcoming barriers. Everyone is going to walk hand in hand together in peace. They should hear and think about how we can all be united as one. If you are alone listening to this song, you would eventually change your mind. Seeing the movements that have started would pull you in to join over time. I think that is a powerful and amazing thing. It should make the audience think about positivity, and join the movement of overcoming everything.
- If I were to be signing this song, I would imagine that the audience is my family. I would like to think that they will interpret the song the same way that I have when they hear me. I think that the meaning sort of changes when it is sung alone or with a group. When sang alone, the song is really a motivational tune that should get you on your feet in a time of need. If you are religious, then maybe someone can get a sense that they are walking with their god or another spiritual being. When sang with a group, I believe that there is more of a sense of togetherness. Together, we can all overcome an obstacle and face it with no fear
- If I was singing this song my audience would be anyone who would want to listen. They would hear the same imagery as I already explained. I don't think the message would change if I was alone or in a group.
- If I were to be singing this song my audience would be myself. I would hear myself finally expressing the power I hold. I would hear myself taking back everything I let go of and regaining control over myself. If I were to hear me sing this just to myself or in front of a group it would not matter. This song and the meaning I put beyond it is for me. Letting myself know it is okay to be okay, to not continue to suffer.
- I think this poem was made for an audience fighting for their rights during the civil rights movements almost like a triumph song. They want them to know that they're not alone and are not afraid of

saying what they mean. I think that if I was alone I would be singing it very quietly to myself and feeling some sort of comfort, with a group I would be singing loudly like a choir showing hope

- My audience is anyone who has felt oppression in their lives. Anyone who has experienced unfair treatment can relate to this song. The audience hears inspiring and encouraging words to not be fine with being treated like that. If I was in a group singing this song it would be even more encouraging because then the audience knows they are not alone when it comes to oppression, and also that they do not have to fight it alone.
- The audience would be all people in my life, my family, friends, coworkers, classmates, and neighbors. I would hope that they hear the hope for a brighter future and that to achieve that future, they need to be friends with others instead of enemies. I feel this will have a deeper affect if sang as a group because it symbolizes what the future portrays, a group that is coming together for the greater good.
- My audience would be directed toward the people who are affiliated with those who are suppressing me and those who are off to the side remaining neutral or unaffiliated. I feel like if they heard these words, they might come to realize that there is a problem that needs to be addressed. I feel like if you hear one person singing this, it would feel like a smaller dispute. Something a little more domestic. However, if this is being sung by a group of people, then I feel like it would be taken more seriously since there are more people being affected by whoever it is they are singing about.
- I would sing this song to people who need their eyes opened. Whether that be myself or a group of people. I think that people really show their emotions when they sing. They sing their heart out quite literally. I think that this song needs to be sung to people who need their eyes opened, that the world is not what it seems, but we can fix what is broken. We can take action, but these people would need to realize it first.
- If I were to sing this song, it would be in front of the entire world. There is so much going on not only in America, but every country. We are all facing tough times right now, especially with COVID. I think what the audience would hear is that we shall overcome this tough situation and the tough situations going on in our own countries', we shall come together and support each other. If I was alone, to me this would mean that I should overcome my own personal situations to find peace within myself. If I were in a group, this would mean that we shall overcome what is happening in America. We shall help those who need justice, find justice. We shall help minorities and fight for them. Only then will we find peace.
- My audience would be the government, as well as the social groups that continue to let racism and inequality happen with or without being aware of it.
- If I were singing this song it would be towards everyone expending hate in today's world, no matter what their beliefs are. My hope would be that they would hear that everything is going to be okay, that no matter what happens everything is going to work out. Hate is not needed here. If I was singing this song in a group the message would be a lot louder and more meaningful. If I started

singing this song on my own I may look strange and it may do nothing, but with a group the possibility of an impact will be much larger.

- The audience is everyone, it is individuals standing in something with unity and love
- If I was singing this song alone, my audience would be anyone who has ever tried to discourage me from reaching my dreams or doubted that I will be able to achieve my goals. I hope the audience would hear confidence, bravery, and determination that is able to prevail over any hardships thrown my way. If I were to sing this song with a group, I would want the audience to hear that people are capable of anything they are determined to do and that they are more resilient than anyone could ever imagine.
- My audience would be anyone who doesn't feel as if they have "overcome" yet. Meaning there are still barriers and systems in place designed to keep them from "overcoming". I think the audience hears a community, a welcoming community that says: I see you, I will fight with you, until we are both on the other side. Being oppressed is hard enough as it is. Being a minority is tough because the fact they don't hold the majority means they are looked down on as "lesser than" simply because there are less of them. People are stronger together, that is a fact. So, knowing you are not alone will get you one step closer to gaining more strength and of course hope.
- If I was singing this song, I imagine my audience as people who want to be better and make peace with everyone around them. They hear that we will all join together to make peace and our hearts will be filled with love and joy as we walk hand in hand together to make a change. If I was in a group everyone would probably join hands to make peace, but alone I can only feel peace with myself.
- If I was singing this song, I would imagine my audience to be the people who are doubters and the people who don't know what is going on. They would hear a parade of people showing their perseverance on overcoming the battle and showing that what they believe in is right.
- My Audience would be America. For me, America and its values are what is being oppressed. It no longer stands for freedom for all and life, liberty, and I believe most importantly, the pursuit of happiness. You could very reasonably argue that it never has. In order to "overcome" as the song says we need to put these values into the infrastructure of our country. The message of the song would not change if I was alone or with a group because my beliefs would not change.
- I feel if I was to sing this, it would be to a group of people in a support group. The should who have suffered from a system of ignorance, miscommunication, oppression and abuse.
- If I am singing this song, my audience will be teenagers. This song is inspirational and it talks about people working together to overcome obstacles. If I am alone, it would be a message to me. As for a group, it will create a power to send messages.
- If I was singing this, my audience would be myself. Singing this to myself I would be saying that I am not afraid of other people's opinions of me. I am willing to overcome their opinions and be confident

in myself. If I was alone singing, it would be more powerful than anything. My own voice talking about my own problems would bring so much power and mightiness to the song. Where as if I was with a group, the song would sound more like a joyful song than anything. Not as much meaning.

- When I imagine singing this song alone, it doesn't feel powerful, it feels fragile. It feels like a dim light in a dark room that could go out at any moment. There is a powerful moment in the final moments of the film 'Mister Johnson' where the titular character, sentenced to death by hanging, asks his 'friend' and former employer to shoot him, as he doesn't wish to be hanged. He kneels on the ground and sings to himself, "Who dare say Mister Johnson afraid? What that mean, 'Afraid'? Is it good to eat? Is it good to drink? Is it like a man's blood when I drink it up? What that mean, 'Afraid'?" That is how I imagine the song being sung alone. In a group, however, I imagine the song being sung on the front lines of an uprising. I remember all the times I have looked in the eyes of an officer in full riot gear, knowing fully what was to come in the next few minutes and hours. I think of Portland--'little Beirut'--taking the streets for months on end, and the audience isn't the singer anymore, and neither is it any audience, but instead it is those police, and the men in suits in the courthouse the police are protecting. Nobody is being sung to, but rather sung at; they are being told, "We will defeat you."
- If it were me singing this song, I would assume that my audience would be people wanting to sing gospel, or perhaps a group of people at a church service. The reason I say this is because this song looks exactly what is sang in Catholic songs during church. I think the message that followers of christ want to embrace, and the message the author of this song embraces, are both extremely similar
- My audience would simply be everyone in the world today who is struggling and trying to make it through these crazy times. They would hear the powerful movement in the song and how we can overcome it. All alone I believe this song would be kind of sad to realize it but with a group it would be something we would want to join together for and think about how to fix this world.
- If I was singing this song my audience would be people directly affected by racism and discrimination. My audience would hear extremely motivating and uplifting words convincing them that they can fight for what is right. They will hear words like overcome, believe, and peace, which would give them comfort through tough times. These lyrics are very flexible and can be used for single people or a large group. A person hearing this song while they are alone would relate more to the sentences say, "I do believe" and "O deep in my heart". These sentences people would be able to relate to individually a little better. Groups would respond best to the sentences like, "We are not afraid" and "We shall overcome some day". These sentences will give large groups of people the motivation needed to go to battle for their rights.
- My audience is to minority groups. This is a civil rights song but it's also to whites. I'm white and I think putting aside my differences and standing up for what I know is right, is right and it's a way to lead by example.
- My audience would be anybody willing to join me in my fight for equality, or people that are there to try and tear me down from fighting. For the ones that stand with me, they hear a song of

empowerment. For the ones that go against me, they hear crybabies and stupidity. It changes whether I am in a group or not because if I was alone I wouldn't be singing as loudly as I would be able to in a group and it would be much harder to get my point across.

- My audience would be my family and the most I care most about because COVID is something that could take some of them away from me. They would hear my love and know that I am here.
- My audience wouldn't be directed towards anyone specifically, I believe that everyone should hear this. The audience would hear that there needs to be change and we can do this together.
- My audience if I were singing this song would be to people I want to persuade into joining me to sing or do keep pushing through problems. I would also want people to see the strength that the song gives out.
- My audience would be anyone and everyone at this point. The year 2020 has been so challenging and has spared no one in that challenge. This song could be encouraging to anyone that needs to hear that they are not alone and that they can continue to progress despite the challenges they are facing.
- The proud boys, an organization in the US, is a far-right, neo-fascist and male-only political organization that promotes and engages in political violence in the United States and Canada. They hear the rest of the US protesting for their rights, and their bodies. I believe if I was alone, chanting this, I would fear for my life. The neo-nazi group terrorized the BLM protest during the days of Breonna Taylor and George Floyd.
- My audience is the people that resist change. They hear a song about persevering through their resistance. One person could be ignored, but the more people you have the harder it is to ignore.
- I can imagine two different audiences. The first those who are in my same "group." They hear that they are supported and that there is a group that they can call upon if they need it. It is positive and hopeful. Singing with multiple people would not make much of a difference in this instance. The other type of audience is those who are against my "group." They hear something like a threat in this song. This time, singing with a group makes the message more powerful and shows that we are unified and ready to go against them.
- Young students, maybe ranging 3<sup>rd</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade, maybe even some Freshman and College Students. They hear that we can push through, by sticking together and seeing the brighter side of things we can get through.
- My audience would probably be my friends and family. Covid has made having relationships with people really difficult, so a song like this could help remind people that we will push past it, but in the mean time, I will continue to love them.

- The audience is the community. They hear a song that brings unity, peace, and resilience to all. It doesn't change regardless of being alone or with a group.
- An audience could be anyone. They hear it almost as you're preaching and providing relief to them. If you're alone the meeting isn't as great as when you're singing to a group

## Prompt 4: Is there a song you often return to in order to help you get through something difficult? What song? Why?

- When I am going through some turbulence in life, I like to listen to the song “Overcomer” by Mandisa. It reminds me that I was created to overcome, and that my battles are already won.
- Yes, I honestly have countless songs to help me get through different areas of my life. However, my go to is “Soldier” by James TW. Each verse gives me the mentality to keep going now matter how hard times may be. “At times it just feels like the world is trying hard to knock us down. But there's a reason that we're still here when no one else is around” This is one my favorite verses in the beginning of the song that lightens up my mood and brings joy to my soul.
- I usually go more to a genre than a specific song. I go mostly to metal music because it takes my mind off of what my situation was at the time.
- Yes, it's not a specific song but like if I'm feeling down about a relationship or something I listen to Summer Walker or if I'm feeling good and in a happy mind space then I'd listen to Youngboy or Mulatto.
- Free and Easy Down the Road I Go. Because it makes me feel weightless and think of good moments from the past.
- Life's a Climb, Miley Cyrus. With the same meaning as this song, there will be mountains, but we must overcome.
- Yes, the climb by miley cyrus gives me a sense of hope and determination to push through until i have achieved my goal, The lyrics are very profound
- I sometimes find myself to be a pessimist and tend to focus on the negatives. Even be afraid of a certain outcome. I come back to a song called "Intro III" by NF when struggling with fear and that is because of his final verse. "I thought I was in prison this whole time, but i'm the one holding the keys." Essentially we determine whether or not to be afraid and this verse helps me to overcome my fears in life.
- I don't necessarily go to music when I need help getting through something. I just never had the connections with music, but I love listening to 90s music to help me get out of a bad mood at work. I think I will go to that music because I know all the lyrics word by word.
- A song I go back to when going through difficult times is “Going Through Changes” by Eminem. The song reflects on his depression after losing a close friend, and his drug overdose that followed. He speaks humbly about the struggles of grief and past decisions, and how there are some things in life we can't control or take back. Along with dealing with our vicious self consciousness that keeps us

from living life freely. It also helps to see someone that as successful as Eminem still has to deal with the struggles that so many deal with on a daily basis, and show us we are not alone

- I don't have any song. I just trust in God.
- The song I listen to when I am scared, nervous, anxious or just need a bit of encouragement, is "Doxology" by Stars Go Dim. The reason I love this song is because I know with everything good or bad going on in my life, God will always be my foundation. I have had a really bad couple of years and I know God is lifting me up even when I don't realize it and this song reminds me of that.
- "Nothing Else Matters," by Metallica is one of the many songs I return to when feeling sad or lost. The melody is slow and the pace is steady. The lyrics are of self-affirmation and hope. Each verse has a different ideal or virtue to cherish. My favorite is: "I never opened myself this way. Life is ours, we live it our way. All these words, I don't just say. And nothing else matters." Singing this song alone in my car (so that I don't get self conscious and can sing as loudly as I want) is as cathartic as seeing a therapist.
- The song I listen to is "Where is the Love By" Black Eyed Peas. I like the song because it was written in 2003 and almost all the lyrics are still relevant today. I especially like this lyric "Overseas, yeah, we tryin' to stop terrorism; But we still got terrorists here livin'; In the USA, the big CIA; The Bloods and The Crips and the KKK" there are a lot of people in the United States who think the "Hate groups" are not terrorists. Terrorists are people who want to harm or kill a group of people. The KKK wants to kill black people, other groups in the United States want to harm black people and Jews. This song shows that people can't get it through their heads that those groups are as dangerous or much more dangerous or more dangerous than the ones we go to war with in the Middle East. The song is a powerful song and what has happened in 2020 and the years before brings out the true colors in people we know.
- A song I often use to get through difficult times is "Mirror Master" by Young the Giant because it gives me the sense that I have the ability to control and choose my path and create a positive one.
- I have two songs that I listen to when I'm upset. We're Gonna Be OK – Taylor John Williams and Hands Held High by Linkin Park. We're Gonna Be OK is about continuing on even though things are rough, and Hands Held High calls out some of the terrible things that are happening in our world. Both make me bring me back to center and have a large emotional effect on me.
- I do not have a specific song but Frank Ocean is my favorite artist, I am his biggest fan and his music really calms me down when I have anxiety and helps me when I need it. All songs of his have a certain sound to them that make me feel a certain way. You can either ball your eyes out to every song or blast every song and dance.
- I don't return to one song in particular, but the songs I choose to help me get through tough times usually have a similar tone to how I'm feeling

- I listen to a song called “There comes a thought”. It promotes clear thinking when challenged with something seemingly impossible to overcome. It helps me clear my mind and take on one task at a time. The creators of the song had this use in mind when writing it and it has been helpful.
- Not really but if I had to pick one it'd be Stay by Rihanna, I just really like the song and although it's somewhat of a sad song it always makes me smile.
- When I am struggling with something difficult in my life, a song I tend to turn to is “Don’t Rain on My Parade” from Funny Girl. This song has an uplifting beat and positive words to help lift up my spirits. This song also gets me motivated to do things to help make things better for myself.
- When I was little I can remember, my mom making a chicken pot pie with a crock pot, setting it on low and packing my sisters and I up for soccer practice in our navy green rusty minivan with a grape juice stain on the ceiling. We would pile into the van and I would begin the frantic pulling and squeezing to get my feet into my shin pads, all the while singing along to my mom’s favorite album, Sara Evans Greatest. Now, as a twenty-two-year-old I still blast Sara Evans greatest hits whenever I’ve had a hard day or things have seemed perpetually awful. I think I do this because the memory of my mom and family and really good chicken pot pie just comforts me and reminds me of who I am.
- I don’t really have a specific song, I more have a singer, Juice Wrld, If you have heard of him you know him as one of the top artists in music today, I see him as an inspiration, showing no matter what happens, or where you come from there is always light at the end of the tunnel for you, and your family. Juice Wrld came from Chicago and made it to the top at just 18 years old, Sadly he passed away due to drug use (of course drug use I mean he was a rapper right). I see past that and feel a deeper connection with him and his music. Jarrad Higgins will always be one of the best in my book. And if I’m listening to him, my ears
- There are several songs that I return to when I am going through something difficult. The first one, “Something More” by Sugarland, is my go-to song. I always remember my mom singing it, and it about that there is so much more to what you are doing now, and you are going to be okay. The second one, “I Wanna Do It All” by Terri Clark, is about doing all the things you want to do such as: visiting Paris, going to Mardi Gras, watching a Yankees game, seeing Niagara Falls, ect. I love to travel, and it just makes me feel like all the work I am doing is worth it and will work out. They were both songs my mom used to sing and when I felt I was failing they made me realize that this point is so small i
- The song I usually go to in times of difficulty is Oceans by Hillsong UNITED. I choose this song because it was always my friends’ and my favorite song through Catholic school and it calls upon our faith and Jesus to help us through and to find comfort within him.
- I do not have one specific song that I come to when I’m struggling, since my music taste changes a lot and I rarely listen to the same songs for long. Currently, though, I have been listening to a lot of music by the artist Mitski when I need to make myself feel better. Her music tends to have intense feelings in it, and describes things that hit close to home for me

- I do not think there is one song I turn to when I am going through something difficult. However, one artist I turn to is Taylor Swift. It seems like a cliché answer, especially for girls when they are going through something difficult in life or a heartbreak. However, her songs are very relatable to my life now. When I was younger, I loved her but did not understand what her songs meant. Now I get them, and my friends and I listen to her all the time for fun. But something about them make you get over things quicker, and I always turn to her country songs when I am in a difficult time. They explain your emotions, and there is a song for each one. The songs make the difficult period easier. I do not feel alone.
- A song that I often return to get through something difficult is really any song that can make me think that someone has gone through something as hard as I have. I can listen to any sad, slow song and find comfort. Maybe because I feel like I am not alone. A sad song that can make me feel something makes me feel more alive and worthy more than feeling nothing
- I really love music so there are a few songs that I listen to in order to cheer myself up. My favorite, though, is Semi Charmed Life by Third Eye Blind. The song has really dark lyrics, but the overall music is super upbeat and happy. It always makes me dance and puts me in a good mood.
- The song, “Jesus lover of my soul” is a song that I often sing to myself when I am having a rough day. I love the lyrics of the song because they remind me that even though this world may hate me at times, Jesus loves me enough to die for me on the cross. He took my sins upon Himself so that I could be acquitted and reconciled to God. It brings me a sense of comfort and calm that I can hardly express. Also, it’s fun to sing
- A song I often turn to when I am going through something difficult is Blue World by Mac Miller. This song, if you listen closely is talking about how you need to stay here and figure yourself out because a world without you is not full. Yes, we all have sad moments and for me, those can last for months sometimes but why give up? Why let those dark parts of you get the best of you? My favorite lyric is “The devil on my doorstep bein' so shady Mmm, don't trip, we don't gotta let him in” because it is true. You do not have to let your thoughts get the best of you.
- I do not really turn to a song in difficult times. When I begin to take life for granted, I do listen to “Live Like Your Dying,” by Tim McGraw to remind me that life is short and I need to live it to the fullest.
- I do have a song that I always listen to when I am feeling down or going through something rather difficult. It is “Killing Me Softly” by the Fugees. I love this song because the meaning behind every word is so powerful and always puts me in a better mood.
- A song that I often find comfort in during hard times is a song called The Gray by Movements. This song to me is a good expression toward depression which is something I have struggled with, so when I hear the singer/songwriter sing the lyrics to this song I don’t feel so alone. I feel a little more grounded after hearing this song during the hard times.

- There is not a specific song I return to, but I always want to listen to songs that I feel like understand me or don't judge me. I want to listen to songs that accept me and have lyrics that show love and compassion, because those lyrics know what I'm going through, and they accept me. Listening to lyrics that I relate to and that understand me helps me get through tough times.
- I don't really have a song that I listen to repeatedly when I am going through something difficult, I usually just put a sad Spotify playlist on and listen to that only to realize that it's making me more sad so I turn on Post Malone and it makes me feel better. I guess one song that I have listened to a lot recently during tough times is "Fix it to Break it" by Clinton Kane. Most of the difficult times I have gone through this year are my own fault, the artist sings it about someone else but when I hear it, I think of myself. In the song he says "I've been pulling you close but pushing me further" and "I've been holding it back that I see you different", I think of myself because I try to pull myself closer back to reality, I try to bring myself back from the dark times but then I overthink and push myself further. Then when I hear the second line, I look at myself in the mirror and see someone different. Lately, I've been fighting a battle with myself, inside my head. My depression has gotten very bad during 2020 and whenever I sing this song, I sing it to myself, sometimes I sing it while looking at myself in the mirror to remind myself to keep pushing and to keep fighting. I know this has nothing to do with anything but the battle I have been fighting most recently is with myself and this song has helped me to realize I gotta keep going.
- Yes, but more a music genre rather than a specific song. I go to my gospel music because it reminds me that Jesus is there for me and that he will always love me and carry me when I can no longer walk.
- For some reason I always turn to the song "The night Chicago died" by Paperlace when I'm really upset. I've never thought into why this is and honestly it's a little strange that this is my go to. I think this song just has so much passion, and when I'm alone I can just scream it with all sorts of emotions which just feels amazing. It reminds me of being Up North with my family, or singing in the kitchen my Dad. It takes me back to good memories. The melody of the song is pretty upbeat too so that helps as well.
- Lauren Daigle, "You say", This song represents independence, strength, and it represents my faith; This helps me through this because it shows light on how much my religion brings me even if god believes I'm strong, you can still believe you're weak
- I don't have a song that I return to when things are difficult. I go to the barn and listen to the sound of horses munching hay, watch them graze and eat in their pastures, and feel their hair under my fingers and their breath on my face. Horses are my haven.
- I adore the song Underdog by Alicia Keys because it reminds me that a lot of people on top, started at the bottom. The only place to go from there is up.

- I often return to listening to “The Fight Song” by Rachel Platten when I get sick because it got me through really hard times with my illness and seeing her in concert gave me so much hope and motivation to work on healing myself and feeling better.
- There isn't really a song that helps me get through stuff but I think a song that is really relevant to today and even possibly this song is maybe, "Where Is the Love?" by Black Eyed Peas. I think it's so relevant in today's society because it shows how we shouldn't be judging people and hurting others. We should be caring for each other because after all we are one country and it hurts seeing how this country has been lately where it's almost so divided with the election going on today and how COVID-19 effects and created two sides where people don't either care or don't believe in it and others who are trying their best to try and stay safe and shed knowledge on other people.
- I turn to the people in my life for these matters. Those who you surround yourself with are the ones pick you up after you've fallen down. It is with the support of others that we all truly thrive.
- When I need help with a problem, I turn to Frank Sinatra's song “I did it My Way”. It helps me understand that despite how the world turns, every minute you live is an opportunity to become your story, to add to others, to become who you want to be. Despite the trials the regrets and the getting up from falls, you did it, and it was you who did.
- I have a song that I often return to help me get through something difficult. This is Roar by Katy Perry. Because to put it simply, Roar is about getting up after a fall, about getting up on your own and becoming more and more confident. Despite the difficulties or bad, unpleasant things that others throw at you. We should not be silent about everything and keep our emotions hidden, we should roar, or stand up for ourselves and be heard. That way, we will be like a tiger in the jungle, free and strong.
- The song that helps me get through something difficult is either, “Love Yourz” by J. Cole or “I Love This Life” by LOCASH. I pick these two songs because after I am done listening to the sad songs to dwell on what is happening that is making me upset, I put on Love Yourz because the whole song is about how you won't be happy until you love your own life before anything or anyone else. It helps me realize that my life is my main priority and no one can take that away from me. I picked “I Love This Life” by LOCASH because it is my dad's favorite song and it just reminds me of a happier time. I have many more songs but these two are my absolute favorite.
- There is a song from one of my favorite songwriters, Theo Hilton, in one of his projects, Nana Grizol, called “Cynicism.” It is much more quiet and contemplative than most of the music I listened to when I first heard it, but it has always resonated strongly with me. Sometimes I listen to it when I am feeling down, because of the general mood but also because of the opening lines, “I once saw a sunset so vivid and pure, that I swore it was perfect. I once had a lover, I'm not sure if I'll recover but I know it was worth it.” Most of the time I just listen to it when I am feeling pessimistic and cynical, and I try really hard to internalize the final line of the song, “Cynicism isn't wisdom, it's a lazy way to say that you've been burned. It seems if anything you'd be less certain after everything you've ever learned.”

- A song that I often go to when I am down is a song by Trippie Redd. The song is titled, *Who Needs Love*, and Trippie raps and sings about how despite everyone treating him with fake love, it does not matter to him, because he doesn't need anyone's love but his own. It really seems like people my age do not know how to treat others, and it tends to really get me down a lot. This song always brings me back to my senses that I don't need anyone but myself, and that is really important, especially now, when we have to be conscious of how we are spending our time with others.
- Yes, I always listen to "Best Day of My Life" by American Authors, this is a song that is upbeat and no matter what is happening that day it would cheer me up and make the day better. It is something I can't listen to without just genuinely being happy and turning my day around.
- I keep returning to the song, *Every Storm Runs Out of Rain*, to help me get through difficult times. This song means a lot to me as it helped me battle my way through depression. Listening to the lyrics of this song is the only thing that can get me out of bed on the bad days. *We Shall Overcome* I'm sure does the same thing for people who suffer directly from racism. Songs give many people, including me, hope that things can change and the motivation they need to feel better.
- The song I listen to in difficult times is "The Way Life Goes" by Lil Uzi Vert. It's a calming song and helps me to remember that it's going to hurt sometimes but time goes on.
- There are many, many, many songs that I return to in order to help me get through something difficult. One song that I return to most of all is called "Lost In Yesterday" by Tame Impala. This song is about overcoming your rough past and trying to move on to a better future. A quote from the song that I believe can speak to anybody that listens is when it says "And you're gonna have to let it go someday." (1:29-1:32) Every person on earth has demons in their closet they want to get rid of and this song is perfect to listen to when you're stuck in that hard place.
- A song that I always go to if I'm ever going through a rough time is, "Even Though You're Leaving" by Luke Combs. It's a song about his dad passing away but before his dad passes, he tells Luke that even though he won't physically be there, he's still there with him. I listen to this because of the loss of my grandpa. He was my person and could make everything better by just a phone call. It's a song that reminds me that he's still here.
- A song that gets me through hard times is "Closer to my Dreamz" by Doughboy Roc. The reason this song gets me through hard times is because it helps me calm down and shows me the things I should be grateful for in life
- A song that I often return to lately to help me get through things is *Heat Waves* by Glass Animals. I think I return to that song a lot because it's about 2020 and how everyone is kind of going through the same things and we all miss the things we used to be able to do.
- There is not a particular song that I turn to. However, I do use music to help keep me motivated in different situations. I use music with a fast tempo when I need to focus and complete things quickly

or I am doing cardio exercise. I use more calming music when I am trying to write or have deep thought.

- My mother was a teen in the 90's, growing up I listened to all 80's & 90's, I believe that the song, Changes by 2Pac, would be my song swap. Growing up in a racist town my whole life, I have heard the worst. Listening to this song after a long day of ignorant white boys, always reminded me there is more than just my home town, there is light in the future.
- There is not one single song that I use to help me through hard times. There are a few songs that I will use, and the specific one will vary based on how I am feeling. For example, if I am looking for something whimsical and lighthearted, I like the song "Something Just like This" by the Chainsmokers and Coldplay. If I am feeling down and want something that relates to how I am feeling at the moment, I will listen to "Under the Bridge" by the Red Hot Chili Peppers.
- The song that helps me get through difficult times or something that I am struggling with is "Rise Up". Mainly because the lyrics really speak and pushing through. The verse speaking of being able to move mountains when you can't breathe, is one of my favorites versus in being able to push through to the end.
- A song I often turn to is called "you say" by Lauren Daigle Because it reminds me that even when I feel like I am nothing and I've done everything wrong, my father in heaven thinks so much more of me.
- Feels like today, by Rascal Flatts. Today is as good as any, to start making the change you want to see.

Prompt 5: When I sing with others, my voice becomes a \_\_\_\_\_ and then it \_\_\_\_\_.

- When I sing with others, my voice becomes a part of a tool and then it mends broken hearts.
- Quiet, but then it breaks through
- When I sing with others my voice becomes a better sound and then it completely conjoins
- My voice becomes an echo to the ones suffering to let them know they are heard, and then it becomes a reason
- When I sing with others, my voice becomes echoed and then it carries our message even farther.
- When I sing with others my voice becomes a part of the community and then it is more powerful
- A lot more awkward and then it becomes less lonely and more comfortable.
- When I sing with others, my voice becomes a challenge and then it makes a difference.
- light, conquers the dark
- When I sing with others, my voice becomes a beacon of light and then it guides others
- For this response I would like to say that I am a terrible singer. I am actually glad for the masks when I go to church so no one can hear me. Yes, it's that bad. My voice becomes a background singer and then it blends in.
- Log on the fire, and then it bolsters the flame. I chose these lines because the more people you have singing for a cause, the more powerful the message. The more logs you have for a fire, the longer and higher the flame burns.
- When I sing with others, my voice becomes an earthquake and then it moves mountains. I believe if one person stands up for what they believe in it can reach ears from all across the world. I inspired Greta Thunberg at only 16 years- she started a movement for global warming winning world leaders that animals and us as humans will become extinct if we don't act now. There have been marches years before but alot of countries and some US states and comineys have figured out ways to help the environment. Unfortunately the United States hasn't done anything as a whole yet to help the environment. I hope in months or years to come more world leaders can listen to young people and change the way they treat the earth.

- When I sing with others, my voice becomes a \_\_\_\_\_part\_\_\_\_\_ and then it \_\_\_\_\_becomes the whole\_\_\_\_\_
- When I sing with others, my voice becomes a *driving force* and then it *grows*.
- When I sing with others, my voice becomes an instrument and then it amplifies
- When I sing with others, my voice becomes a chorus and then it shows unity and meaning beyond that of which my own voice is capable
- When I sing with others, my voice becomes a Carrier Pigeon and then it soars through the air to spread my message
- When I sing with others, my voice becomes a bird, and then it soars through the auditorium to make sure everyone listening can hear the messages being sung with everyone else
- When I sing with others, my voice becomes a “teammate” and then it “gathers force”
- When I sing with others, my voice becomes a Combined thought and message shared with multiple people, and then it sounds louder and more clear in my own life on my true beliefs and values
- When I sing with others, my voice becomes a \_part of a sea of many voices\_\_\_\_\_ and then it, being a small part, becomes waves of togetherness\_
- There is something about singing that is so powerful because everyone is binding together to emphasize something that is so powerful that it cannot just be spoken. It signifies a more unified approach. When I sing with others, my voice becomes a number in the crowd, and then it becomes a message of urgency and intensity
- When I sing with others, my voice becomes a single thread in our song, and it allows me to lose myself in contributing to something greater than any one of us could make alone. It’s impossible to see just one thread while looking at our creation, but if any were pulled out it would fall apart. My voice is powerful, but it lends that power to a collaborative creation to become one even more impressive thing with the assistance of others.
- When I sing with others, my voice becomes a small ingredient in the mixture and then it disappears. I am not a very good singer to begin with, but when I am with my friends my voice is drowned out. All I hear is just a crazy mixture of friends. Sometimes we get in sync, and it can be really cool. I do not hear my voice anymore, and I listen to the power in the song. My voice is a part of that mixture, and so is everyone else’s voice.
- When I sing with others, my voice becomes a symphony of hopefulness and then it is heard by ears that need hope

- When I sing with others my voice becomes a carrier and then it helps deliver the message
- When I sing with others, my voice becomes a cord that when struck, brings balance to the note and then delight to the soul.
- When I sing with others, my voice becomes a mumble, and then it flourishes and grows to fill the air
- When I sing with others my voice becomes smooth like butter on a hot pan, then it becomes quieter as I sing along
- When I sing with others my voice becomes part of a group and then it becomes even stronger.
- When I sing with others, my voice becomes a symphony and then it blends with the others and our voices become one.
- When I sing with others, my voice becomes a part of something greater than myself and then it makes me feel a little more connected to whoever it is I am singing with.
- When I sing with others, my voice becomes a powerhouse and then it lowers to a whisper to save myself from the judgment of others.
- I honestly do not know how to answer this question because I'm not quite sure what the question is asking but I'm going to give it a shot. When I sing with others, my voice becomes a shout and then it echoes. I say this because when I sing I get pretty loud and then sometimes I can hear it echo but thinking deeper, my voice is loud and I want it to be heard, and I sing as loud as I can so I can hear my own echo. It's good to be loud and use your voice, it's good to shout and let everything out.
- When I sing with others, my voice becomes a \_\_flower\_\_\_\_\_ and then it \_\_blossoms\_\_\_\_\_.
- When I sing with others my voice becomes a megaphone and then it inspires deeper.
- When I sing with others , my voice becomes a machine and then it roars
- When I sing with others my voice first becomes an addition to the noise and then it becomes an intimate connection with those around me. It is a closeness that bonds us together.
- When I sing with others, my voice becomes a beacon and then it echoes.
- When I sing with others, my voice becomes a beautiful melody and then it harmonizes with the other gorgeous voices.
- When I sing with others, my voice becomes a statement and then it resonates.

- When I sing with others, my voice becomes loud and then it gets louder. If I'm singing with others, its usually because it's a classic song and we've been drinking. It starts turning into who can sing the loudest.
- My voice becomes a low rumble, invoking a primal force, and then it raises, growing in intensity, gathering with others, becoming a surge of primal truth and undeniable unity.
- When I sing with others, my voice become a low to let others sing first and then it will get louder when I can feel the music.
- When I sing with others my voice becomes a sound of beauty then it only gets better from there.
- When I sing with others my voice becomes a tidal wave and washes over everyone. Seriously though, when I do recordings of group vocals I have to stand in a different room and face away from the mic because my voice is so loud and will easily overpower the group's vocals.
- When I sing with others, my voice becomes a thing of beauty, and then, it stays a thing of beauty. But to tell the truth, the people I am singing with may think differently about this. I really was not sure what to put here, unfortunately.
- When I sing with others, my voice becomes a vibe and then it becomes a party with friends.
- When I sing with others, my voice becomes a river, and it helps push boats (people) in the right direction.
- When I sing with others, my voice becomes an anthem and it sends messages.
- When I sing with others, my voice becomes a blaring alarm and then it can be heard from miles away.
- scream.....becomes a cry.
- When I sing with others, my voice becomes a \_\_\_addition\_\_\_\_\_ and then it \_\_\_\_\_ becomes a unit\_.
- When I sing with others, my voice becomes louder and then it strengthens.
- Conduit and then it becomes immersed
- When I sing with others, my voice becomes a statement and then it becomes a lesson.
- When I sing with others, my voice becomes an amplifier and then it gets louder.

- When I sing with a group, my voice becomes part of a larger whole. My voice loses its own power, but that power is given to the group. Any flaws or mistakes in my own voice are drowned out by the others, and I help to drown out the mistakes that those around me make. Singing together, we are more powerful and further reaching than the sum of each part, just as with any other movement.
- Seed and then it blossoms into a flower of life.
- A series of musical notes and then it synchronizes with all others.
- Echo, means more

## Prompt 6: Protestors often adapt a song to reflect current circumstances. If you could add a verse to reflect our current time or your current truth, what would you add?

- “We will walk hand in hand someday.” Today, there is so much division and anger. Holding someone’s hand is not only representative of teamwork and joining together, it includes physical touch, which is something only people who are familiar and love one another do.
- We’ll see smiles miles wide
- If I were to add a verse it would be: Carry on blindly fighting
- I would add the simple phrase “Masks are not political” to the song to show the importance of what the COVID outbreak has been telling us
- Say her name, say his name we are not to blame it seems they are hunters and we are their game.
- We shall persevere, We shall persevere, We shall persevere through today, O deep in my heart, I do believe, We shall overcome some day. -I would put this line as the second to last verse in the song to show that even though today might not be easy, we are committed to fighting for a better tomorrow.
- God is always there for us, He does everything for a reason and we should just trust
- “We shall see truth someday”.
- I would add- Being locked away doesn't aid overcoming the subject, it covers the gate, that is later opened back up when our cages are opened as well.
- “You may feel damaged or broken  
Our will is being tested  
We can't be soft spoken  
Ignite your power,  
Push beyond the limit  
Love is our light, and this will not dim it.”
- "The fight has already been won, and in the one truth we have been saved."
- I’m not a song writer but I think it would be a good idea when updating this song to add verse that talks about the world struggles. I think that addressing the pandemic and that we are all

together in this world be good to state. Or we may need to address the riot issues that have been going on as well. I think that this will help with saving everyone (police force/pedestrians)

- This verse that I came up with, doesn't necessarily go with "We Shall Overcome", but I think it is my current truth, the way I feel about my tragedies in my life and what's going on in the world, the song that keeps popping into my head is, "Onward Christian". I feel like sometimes we are in battle, racism, Corvid, tragedy etc.

"Onward Christian soldiers, marching as to war  
With the cross of Jesus, going on before  
Christ, the loyal Master, leads against the foe  
Forward into battle see His banners go.

- "We'll fight together  
We'll fight together  
We'll fight together today.  
O deep in my heart  
I do believe  
We shall overcome some day."

I think the number one thing I would want my verse to add is a sense of unity and togetherness. An affirmation that we're all in this together and than none of us are alone.

- A lyric I like is "Let's forgive but not forget; And learn from the mistakes we made" from the song we've got so far to go from the movie "Hairspray." The song is fun but you can also step back and think " yeah we only have done a little to help out groups of people as a whole. The "Lets forgive but not forget" has truth with how people of color in the county have been treated unfairly but yet some white people don't want to learn from history. It's like they took history in school and that part of their knowledge walks away when a person of color gets killed by the systems. The systems were made to keep people of color expully blacks ad hispanics down so they will have tougher sentences then the white men doing the same crime.
- I would add something along the lines of there being no time to wait and continue to let injustices happen that the time needs to be now.
- In the last verse, I would change "love" to "we" signifying that we control our fate.
- "We Will All Get Through This" or "We Are In This Together"
- I think that I would edit a verse: We walk hand in hand, We walk hand in hand, We walk hand in hand today, O deep in their hearts, I do believe, We shall overcome someday
- I do believe/ We shall overcome some day./If we wear a mask / One day we will not have to! / We must wear a mask / We must wear a mask / So one day we will not have to!
- We will fight / We will fight / We will fight /We will fight for our rights/what we believe

- If I were to add a verse to this beautiful song, I would make it say “We can make the world start anew”. With the pandemic going on, and the political divide in our nation, we have become separated and constantly at a battle with each other. By saying “we can make the world start anew”, it gives a sliver of hope towards ending the pandemic and reforming our country to have more dignity and compassion toward our neighbors, no matter their political stance. This line also gives a sense of unity, which will also gear people toward being more kind and accepting to each other no matter who they are
- A verse that might reflect our current truth would be “love trumps hate, it’s not too late, we shall overcome someday.”
- “We are healthy / We are happy / We love all / We shall overcome anything TOGETHER”
- The verse I would add would be, we shall overcome our differences big and small someday
- I would change the last line to, “We shall overcome TODAY. Enough is enough.” This thereby emphasizes the intolerance to continue to discriminate and that we as a nation are fighting the fight for the last time, enough is enough and we will not take anymore
- If I were to add a verse, I would add “We shall not be finished”. Earlier this year, there was a huge increase in the amount of people supporting protestors in the United States, specifically those protesting against police brutality and abuse of power. There were months where many important and well-known people addressed the issues with police in our country and the world. However, recently almost all of that has gone silent. While there are definitely more people aware of the issues now, it seems like after caring for a few months the world stopped looking. I would want to remind those listening that there are still plenty of people who have not gone silent, and who continue to fight.
- Join the fight, join the fight, its going to take all our might. This verse is very true. It takes more than a small amount of people to fight this battle. It takes passion and might to fight the battle as well. These lines are what I would add to make sure people understand the awareness that they need to join, and they need to fight.
- If I had to add a verse that stayed within a plural sense, I guess I would say “we can get through this”. I suppose this can do with current circumstances, as well, even though we have eliminated a big threat to our peace from the white house. We still need to brave through the injustices minorities are faced with every day and demanded basic human rights to those that they are not available to.
- If I could add a verse to relate to the current times, I would add something along the lines of opening up your mind. Too many people are close minded during these troubling times and I think if more people opened their minds and hearts we could accomplish much more.

- “The LORD is my Shepherd; I have all that I need. He makes me lie down in green pastures HE leads me besides still waters. HE restores my soul. HE leads me in the paths of righteousness for HIS name sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for You are with me; your rod and your staff they comfort me. You prepare a table before me, in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil, my cup overflows. Surly goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever”. -Psalm 23
- I would add the verse “You may think you need control but is that a positive or a negative.” This means, do you want control over something because you are scared to have nothing to hold onto, or are you using it to grow from? Control is not always used for good.
- I would add the verse, “unity will only make us stronger,” because if everyone comes together, these issues would be solved and everyone would be equal.
- Stand with loved ones, stand with others, stand with all
- “Give us an answer, untainted by greed and injustice. /Give us a path, not beaten down by hate and corruption. /Give us the truth, for we have been deceived for too long /Give us dignity, for we are the same as you /Hear us now, for the time of change is long overdue /Hear us now, as your brothers and sisters /Hear us now, because it is time to come together /Unite with us here, on the foundation of a brighter future”
- I don't know a specific verse, but I think that I would add a verse about acceptance and being seen. Maybe something along the lines of “You are seen. You are heard. You will shout!”
- For our current time I would add, “We shall overcome all the injustices and rise up from the ashes as one.” Because so many things are happening in our world right now. Thinking of our own country, people of color have been facing injustices on a daily basis. They face police brutality, racism and so much more daily. Families from Mexico face injustices by being split apart by our government. They are being locked in cages in horrifying conditions. We as a country need to stand together and stand up against these injustices. For my own current truth, I would add, “We shall overcome the darkness inside of our minds and find peace within ourselves.” I would add this because I know for a fact I am not the only one going through a dark time in my own mind, I've seen several people tell me they are going through a tough time with themselves as well.
- I would add the verse “and even if I fall, I am no longer alone, the fight will rage on, as I am on my way home”
- If I could add a verse to this song to reflect my current truth I would add “walk the path of love and light and everything will be alright”. The reason I would add this is because it's the only thing keeping me going these days. If I keep love in my heart and spread kindness with good intentions life will end up okay no matter what. I have to believe this to keep moving forward.
- That we can come together in a sign of trouble

- If I could add a verse to reflect my current truth, I would add a verse about the ability to overcome physical pain and fear of losing the horses I love so much through that pain preventing me from seeing and riding them.
- We are in this together /We are in this together /We shall unite someday /I do believe /We shall overcome some day
- “Our situation is tough right now, but as we join together, everything will heal”.
- I'm not the very best with lyrics so and with word choices, but if I had to make a verse about how the times are today, I think a verse relative to the topic of police brutality and Black Lives Matter about how all these BLM protest are peaceful and police officers would roam the streets and shoot rubber pellets at people even if they were outside of their house when everything first went down.
- “Before we heal, we must know all that is broken.” This may sound weird, but I mean that in today’s America, people are now starting to see that this country is not what we’ve been told it is growing up. We’re learning more of the unsavory parts of our history and the true colors of the people in power are coming to light. I am optimistic that this country will be better one day and we will all be unified again but before that happens everyone needs to see what the country is now and the work that needs to be done.
- Though others scream lies /Though others scream lies /Though others scream lies today! /O deep in my heart /I do believe /We shall speak with one voice someday.
- If I could add a verse to reflect our current time, I will add the advice for everybody on COVID-19: “ Take care of your health! /Clean up space around yourself! /Raising awareness surely helps /Push away the Corona Corona /Being ready today /Everything’s gonna be O.K /Because our hearts will find a way /We are winning against, this pandemic.”
- We shall become one. We shall become one. We shall become one someday. I do believe We shall become one.
- It’s difficult to do with this song just because the verses are so simple, they don’t leave a lot of room for specifics. I suppose if I was to write a verse it would be: “The springtime will come /The springtime will come /The springtime will come someday! /O deep in my heart /I do believe /The springtime will come someday!” I would use springtime for two reasons, one is that for a couple years now I have been working on a complex concept record about climate change and depression, using winter as a framing device to explore those themes, but also because of the closes the world ever came to a global people's revolution was in 1848, and it was known as “the springtime of the people.”
- If I were to add a verse, it would probably go: We will get through /We will get through /We will get through these times /If we work together and stand the line /We will get through it this time

- The government believes they run the show, but the next generation is here and our voices will be heard.
- The verse I would add is, “We will stay true to ourselves when the villain arises”.
- “We Will Fight” I believe this as another good lyric because it shows heart. The fight against racism is a fight and it doesn’t stop when it gets unpopular.
- We shall never stand down /We shall never stand down /We shall never stand down, not today! /I believe in my soul /You will never see us stand down.
- “We’re All in This Together” from High School Musical
- I would add something like “We breathe the same, We sleep the Same, We all have a heart.”
- We shall see the light /We shall see the light /We shall see the light someday /O deep in my heart /I do believe /We shall see the light someday.
- We shall live in peace /While we walk hand in hand /This is a choice /We can take a stand /We are not afraid /Love will see us through /O deep in my heart /I do believe /No, I KNOW /This is true /We shall overcome /And it starts with me & you
- We live in a world of fear, a cry for help, for the future of our own sake.
- Hope will aid us through /Hope will aid us through /Hope will aid us through someday /O deep in my heart /I do believe /We shall overcome some day
- I would add the line “we have come this far,” as it can apply to many different movements and issues that are being dealt with today. In nearly every modern movement, progress has been made in the last one hundred years, but there is still so much further to go. Adding the line is a hopeful reminding that things will change as long as you keep fighting.
- I would add a verse specifically about the strength we find in each other and the amount of change that can come from that strength.
- If I were to add a verse it would probably have something to do with being joyful. I’m not sure how I would word it, but I think this addition is a good ending to have because it shows that not only will we overcome whatever mess we are in, but we will come out joyful and happy in the end.
- Through this journey of social change, we must adapt and support each other, as we are stronger together as one.
- Today does not determine tomorrow

## Prompt 7: What title would you give your civil rights anthem?

- “In each other’s hearts.”
- Push on
- I would name my civil rights anthem “Blinders”
- I would give my civil rights anthem “we are not afraid”.
- “Open Arms”
- I believe the current title of “We Shall Overcome” is a fitting title. If I had to change the title it would be a minor change. I would change the title to “We Shall Overcome Together,” because a movement of real change is not put together by one person or even one group of people. It requires a variety of support from people all over the world, to take a stand on what they believe is right
- This time will pass
- Breaking out of Quarantine
- Love is Light
- The Truth
- Reaching for Independence
- “Freedom Belongs to Everyone”
- “Together We Thrive” The main theme of my anthem would be to promote togetherness and community. It would emphasize that we can’t get anywhere as individuals, and that caring about the person next to you is more important than anything else.
- Title I would give to my civil rights anthem would be “Let us all learn and do better.” I feel like as a country we need to learn from the 1950’s and 60’s and think about what we can do to not let people who think “make america great again” be a triumph to our depacrazy. White people time and time again has harmed the black and brown community with voter suppression, systemic racism and police brutality. What can we do right now to make them feel safer. How about having police go through school and taking psychology and sociology classes. Having states when its election years making it a law, every county has five to ten drop boxes. Businesses hiring people no matter what their name is. These things can be done and it is so simple to put them in place but no one who is a leader thinks like that because all they care about is money. Why can't we throw money away for just two seconds and really understand why minorities suffer in this country. People who are immigrants from other countries have better success ratings than black people who were born here

because of systemic racism (i.e. red lining). So let's all come together and help teach people who don't see the bigger picture.

- “The Time is Now”
- “No More”
- “Together We Fight As One”
- Today is the Change
- “A mask for the future”
- My Body My choice
- If I were to give my very own civil rights anthem a name, I would want to call it “Wake Up”. These two words to me would give the idea that the world is changing and that life is not what it used to be. Science is real. LGBTQ+ and BIPOC are oppressed and need to get the justice they deserve. Indigenous people were the rightful owners of this land, not Columbus, and deserve more rights and freedoms. Women are strong, independent, and can make a living without a man. The world needs a change, and the way we can start that change is to “Wake Up”
- If I had to name a civil rights anthem based on today’s political and social climate I would pick something like “Say It Loud and Say It Clear” in hopes that it would encourage protestors to throw caution to the wind and shout for what they think is right
- Empathetic Mind, I would call it this because Empathy is all about putting yourself in someone else’s shoes and doing to someone what you want to be done to yourself, I think having empathy can inspire each other because everyone wants to live happily and safe and with an empathetic mind, we can successfully do that
- The title I would name my civil rights anthem would be “Stand Together as One”. I would want it talk about the standing together as one because I think people need to understand that we are more alike than we know. It like looking up in the night sky and feeling so small, but if there are more people willing to stand for something the les one feel small. I want people to come together and put aside their difference and look for one’s similarities. I want people to be able to listen to by themselves and not feel like they do not fit in or feel normal. I want people of all ages to be able to connect to it and apply it any point in their life
- We The People because it refers back to our rights as citizens of this great country and it signifies history, an important factor in the civil right anthem. I could also title it Enough is Enough to again show how fed up we are with the injustice.
- “No More”

- Everyone is equal. I know my beliefs might be different than many others. In today's world, the Black Lives Matter is a big civil right movement. But the I was raised was to see everyone equal. No life means more to me than others. The title of my movement is all about equality and all lives mattering. I understand what people are trying to get out of this Black Lives Matter civil rights movement, but I would just have to say I do not agree with the political stances and the beliefs this organization has. As a Christian, I have been taught to see everyone as one of God's beautiful children. So, when I think of my civil rights movement, I think of peace, equality, love, and happiness. Therefore, the simple title for civil rights movement would just be everyone is equal.
- The title I would give my civil rights anthem would be "Work". I think it is because I had to work to get to the mindset that I have today. It takes work to not be angry over your past, and it takes work to not let it affect you anymore.
- The title to my civil rights anthem would be "Everyone and Everybody."
- "It will not end here"
- I would give my civil rights anthem the title, "It's okay to be okay." I choose this because people focus on putting down people and stripping their freedoms away and being able to talk. People think if you are okay then you have no say and that is wrong. If you let yourself heal from the hurt you can help others gain their civil rights back and freedom.
- "We all live free"
- The title I would give my civil rights anthem is "unity".
- Unified with love
- "Wayward unto a Better Future"
- Voices of the Future.
- "Stand Up and Stand Together" I couldn't really think of some good words to use but I would use this as my title because for a long time, America has been so divided. If we want to see good changes in this country, we need to all come together and make decisions together. We need to stand together during these tough times so we can get through these tough times together.
- Love, a universal language
- I would give my civil rights anthem the title "I Release Myself to love", and this is because no true harm can be done to you when you do this. Your soul is infinite and can never be truly harmed.
- Together is Our Fight

- I would title my anthem “Freedom From Reality” because I would give anything to escape and to be able to ride again without fear.
- Stronger Together
- “Fighting for Freedom and Equality”
- The title I would give my civil rights anthem would be, "Freedom Equality"
- Liberty and Justice. FOR ALL
- I think that if I had to give a civil rights anthem a name, it would be “When a Riot becomes a Choir”
- The title I would give my civil rights anthem is Talk Your Way.
- The End of Division
- I have written a fair amount of trans anthems and played in a number of bands that have written many protest songs. I think the one that could function best as a civil rights song is by a band I am in called Rent Strike, and the song is titled “Burn It All,” It ends with a choir singing “Burn it all” over and over while our frontman sings “from every epicenter of every urban sprawl, through the streets downtown to the empty shopping malls, through the corridors of every city hall, and every brick in every border wall.”
- I would title my civil rights anthem, *Working Together*, because if it hasn’t been more clear in history, we cannot make a change within our system unless we work together and do our part. Change will not happen on its own, especially when it comes to people’s opinions of one another.
- We Won’t Stop Now
- I would title my civil rights anthem, “Long Overdue Freedom”
- “The Bigger Picture”
- I would title my civil rights anthem “Never stand down”.
- We’re One and The Same
- The title I would give my anthem would be called “Change”
- The title I would give my civil rights anthem would be “Facing fears”
- Today is a Day

- The future is at stake, there is hope
- Unity Inspires Change
- I would name my anthem “See Us, Hear Us.” It follows the process of how learn one learns about new issues. First, they have to know that it exists, which is the “See Us” part. “See us” can also work convincing people to care about problems that they already were aware of. “Hear Us” is the next step. They know that we exist, so listen to what we have to say. Those two steps are directly needed for change.
- The Path Is Yet to Be Walked
- I would title my anthem “Love wins all.”
- We Are One
- A step forward

## Prompt 8: Singing as an act of protest is powerful because \_\_\_\_\_.

- singing and music can add extreme emotion to any circumstance. That is why movies have music and singing. Singing as an act of protest is powerful because it contributes a meaningful force.
- It adds emotion
- It's something that shows peaceful fighting. Blacks wanted to do it the right way so they found a way and to this day their method of fighting through song is used and works.
- Singing as an act of protest is powerful because peoples ears will more likely listen.
- Your voice is being heard
- Singing as an act of protest is powerful because\_You can feel the pain and the raw emotion that people feel in song/ in there voices \_.
- Singing as an act of protest is powerful because\_ You are able to feel/hear the soul and pain one is trying to express \_\_\_\_\_.
- Singing as an act of protest is powerful because words can present a statement, but singing helps show the emotions behind the words.
- Because it helps to reflect our sufferings and our emotions.
- Most people can relate and sympathize/understand through music
- Singing as an act of protest is powerful because\_\_\_\_\_ you will be heard\_\_\_\_\_.
- ....it is nonviolent and the world is connected through music.
- It is a peaceful movement that allows one to be heard and can unite many people. (Like, "We Are the World".)
- It creates an emotional connection. Simply saying something doesn't evoke the same emotion from within the speaker, but singing forces some emotion from the singer. You can hear the struggle, the oppression, and the fear in their voices. A speaker can evoke the same kind of feelings, but you have to be a better than average speaker to do so, but you don't have to be a particularly good singer to show you how feel
- Songs tell stories that make people feel something inside. I think we can all agree as Americans that supporting people who served or did serve risks their life to keep this country safe. I believe all counties should have a military just in case another country finds them a threat. In the song "Proud to be an american" when it says "And I won't forget the men who died, who gave that right to

me.;And I'd gladly stand up next to you and defend her still today." I think it represents that we all come together when a country hurts us. Despite all that we don't come together when a group or multiple groups like the people of the black and brown community get killed by police or when our schools or gatherings get shot up by psychotic white men. We don't come together and we argue and one argument is "don't take my guns away". I just find that argument to be absurd because people who want gun control just want to make sure your state of mind isn't psychotic that's all. I also don't want people to own a weapon that is used for military purposes like AR15's. No one is killing strangers with a hunting gun. So I guess what I'm trying to say is we need to find a middle ground and have songs that include all people including immigrants who want a better life like our white ancestors did coming over to go to Ellis Island, New York City.

- Singing as an act of protest is powerful because\_\_\_it unites \_\_\_\_\_.
- *singing is more powerful than shouting*
- its movement through context or sends a bigger message
- it conveys the emotion that speaking alone may not.
- Singing something gives it art and meaning past the words alone. It adds an important human element that is more moving than if it were read in plain speech. Singing can also show unity in a group if it is sung by multiple people at the same time.
- music is the key to the soul.
- Singing as an act of protest is powerful because of the movement a song brings to words. Through music, people are able to feel the emotions of a story being told and history of a situation. Many songs can also give a sense of unity for people. By having a song everyone can sing to help deliver your message to the world, it is beautiful and also inspiring to see how people can come together to create music.
- Singing as an act of protest is powerful because it unites big groups of people. Singing and music is a very assessable art form and we encounter it every day. Making it easily relatable to large groups of people.
- Singing as an act of protest is powerful because it's a different approach filled with peace and serenity that can strike the heart over a strict, cold speech
- It is a sign that people can come together as one and make changes
- singing shows power, unity, force, and peace. Singing seems to appeal more to emotion than simply speaking as well. Messages like these are so powerful that they cannot just be spoken.

- Singing as an act of protest is powerful because when people sing as a group they are coming together to create one beautiful thing, that no one person is more involved in than another. It's a shared act of creation. Beyond bringing people together, it also shows the people behind what is being protested that there is a powerful force against them
- Singing as an act of protest is powerful because it can be a beautiful work of art. Some people do not agree with protests even if they are peaceful. A lot of people do not think protests bring much awareness even if they are peaceful. This might just be because they do not think the government will listen. But singing a beautiful song can send goosebumps down our bodies. It sends a message that can move people. A song about standing up to racism is a something that could do more than any protest could ever do. It would open people's eyes, therefore sending such a powerful message to everyone. It shows a sense of light at the end of the tunnel that seems almost impossible to ignore.
- Singing as an act of protest is powerful because there is unity in the words that are sang by many searching for the same justice in peace
- Singing as an act of protest is powerful because people don't realize they are being lectured to when they are singing along and listening. It's almost subliminal for them
- It expresses an attitude that is stronger than whatever force is coming against us. Singing conveys that one is not going to quit, no matter what is in front of us. It displays hope and courage when those things may be hard to find. It is almost as though it trumps whatever hand someone thinks will win the day. It says, "I know that you think your going to win, but your dead wrong". It is the most intimidating thing to someone who wants to keep you oppressed. It shows the calm power that although seems weak, may in fact be unstoppable.
- Singing as an act of protest is powerful because well first of all songs tend to stick in people's minds, lyrics are catchy, and second of all their is so much more emotion expressed through song. You have the sound and lyrics all coming out in tones that are filled with so much emotion
- Singing as an act of protest is powerful because singing shows emotions unlike just talking. It shows how strongly you feel about the situation you're protesting.
- Singing as an act of protest is powerful because it's encouraging and inspiring.
- Singing as an act of protest is powerful because it includes heart and soul which deeply shows the greater meaning behind the influential words.
- Singing as an act of protest is powerful because music brings people together like nothing else in the world.
- Singing as an act of protest is powerful because it can not be silenced by anyone, because no one knows how to silence a song that everyone knows the lyrics to.

- Words have been spoken for years. Words often aren't listened too. We can speak all we want but we aren't heard when we just speak. People have tried it for decades. When someone is singing you can see the true emotions that the person is feeling. As you can with speaking but when singing you can hear the cracks in someone's voice or you can hear the smile in someone's voice. You can hear the real, raw emotion when someone is singing a song. Singing is a powerful act of protest because it shows true emotions.
- Singing as an act of protest is powerful because singing is beautiful, and people tend to be drawn to beautiful and soothing things.
- Singing as an act of protest is powerful because it spreads more love than anything else, especially in times that it's not expected.
- Singing is an act of protest is powerful because it creates a sense of expression, a sense of voice to hear your opinion
- Singing as an act of protest is powerful because music itself is powerful. As humans, we are all drawn to a melody and, because we are drawn to the tune, we are apt to be more open to the message being transmitted. It is very difficult for a person to become angry when the singing has a calming affect on the majority of people listening.
- Singing as an act of protest is powerful because it doesn't just send a message, the music leaves you replaying it in your head, while the words then trigger emotions.
- Singing as an act of protest is powerful because many people connect through songs and music. People connect with the lyrics or the feelings they get when listening to songs. In the Grinch, when he stole all the Who's presents, the Who's were sad at first but then started singing together to help lift their spirits and this helped the Grinch realize that they don't need gifts because they can connect through song. The Who's singing helped the Grinch grow his heart and in the end they all joined hands and sang. This is the same way because it will bring people together.
- Singing as an act of protest is powerful because it doesn't cause harm and only shows strength in numbers.
- Singing as an act of protest is powerful because music has been a source of coming together for humans for eons. Music gives people strength and rallies people behind a common idea.
- It puts your emotions on your sleeves, in a language that everyone can understand. Music is a universal language, be it the melodic tones of opera, to the sounds of work music to pass the time, the emotion and purpose of songs shine through when you put heart and passion into it. It promotes unity, a gathering of minds and wills to a single voice, a single message, and very few can pick that apart.

- Singing as an act of protest is powerful because of a well-turned phrase, reaching people and ripening those inner inspirations they are just starting to understand. Also, a song can be a lens through which people can focus and see unfamiliar issues better.
- Singing as an act of protest is powerful because the sound of someone's voice being so beautiful and singing powerful lyrics is what beauty is to me.
- Singing is likely the oldest form of art and almost certainly precedes language. Everyone can do it, and you need nothing but your own body. While every single person's voice is different, when singing in a large enough group, they blend together into one voice in a way that other instruments just aren't capable of. If the song is simple enough, you can even sing in a language you don't understand. I once sang a Swedish protest song with a group of people in a jail cell after a protest, covered in bruises and eyes still stinging from the tear gas and pepper spray. I have no idea what the lyrics to that song were about, but it was an incredibly powerful moment that I still think about often, over a decade later.
- Singing as an act of protest is powerful because it is a lot easier for a large group of people to sing a song together, rather than one person speak words or they all try to speak at the same time. Singing also brings about unity, so it is really important that people sing in protest, because it definitely helps bring people together to get their feelings across.
- It lets our voices be heard in a way they have never been heard before. It gives off more power and voice behind the movement than thousands of people screaming different things. It unites us.
- Singing as an act of protest is powerful because of the fact of its peaceful nature of giving opinions and experiences.
- Singing as an act of protest is powerful because music touches souls. People can relate to music on a deep level and the voice behind a song is a powerful one in the message it's portraying.
- Singing as an act of protest is powerful because there are so many voices in one place singing the same thing and people have to listen to it because it is so loud and powerful. It is a way of getting your emotions across for others to see and hear in a way to remember.
- Your true emotions come out as you're expressing yourself through your own voice.
- people can hear your voice as well as hear the emotion.
- Singing as an act of protest is powerful because it is a way to use your voice to call attention to things that is beautiful.
- Singing is powerful because you can use your voice in a way that is not argumentative or challenging while communicating what you want to share. Singing is often more memorable than a speech or other forms of protest. If songs are catchy touch a listener, they can be contagious and shared over

and over. Singing brings people together, shares emotions good & bad and can be encouraging for all to hear.

- Singing as an act of protest is powerful because it is a voice that is heard. A voice of empowerment.
- The repetition of music can get stuck in your head as a constant reminder of the change that will take place one day
- Singing is a powerful way to protest as it makes the message easy to remember, both for the protesters and others. Singing also is better done by groups, so it is an effective way for groups of protesters to spread their message and be heard. In particular, when a group is singing, it is hard to block out, so it forces anyone around, protester or not, to listen.
- it opens so many doors to speak opinions and to voice your stance and feelings on your views. It gathers audiences in a whole different level and a whole different volume than other ways do, and opens more than just their eyes, it opens their ears and usually their hearts.
- It is powerful because it sparks emotion in people and fuels a fire of passion. Most rebellions are built on emotion and filling that emotion, spurring it on. A song is a really good way to fill that fire.
- The journey begins from the heart.....(With emotion traveling to the lungs, that exhale the air, that forces the tunes to express the cry for change)
- It's a group activity and singing really brings out your true feelings in my opinion