

Write *your own* Protest Song!

The 1960s was the era of the protest song! During the civil rights movement, people used music to express their views on justice and equality. In the 1960s, protest songs were a popular form of music and could be heard both at rallies and on the radio. During the March on Washington, rock singers Bob Dylan, Joan Baez and Peter, Paul and Mary performed to show their support.

Protest songs have been sung as far back as the 1800s and as recently as today. Most often, the singer sings about something that is going on in their community and talks about what kind of changes he would like to see happen. Protest songs are usually angry, sad or optimistic. They've been written in all different styles, from folk to soul to hip-hop.

Try your hand at writing a protest song! First, ask your parent, grandparent or teacher to help you find examples of protest songs. Some of the most well-known songs, like "Blowin' in the Wind," "What's Goin' On," and "A Change is Gonna Come" Listen to the structure of the songs and start thinking about a social issue you've noticed in your city, state or country.

Verse: Explain what the problem is here. Your lyrics don't have to rhyme!

Chorus: Write a sentence that describes the change you'd like to see made.

Verse 2: Describe how you think life would be better if this change happened.

Chorus: Write the sentence that describes the change again.

