

Name: _____

Date: _____

Workshop 4 Written Assignment: When Music Offends

Assignment: Position Paper

Topic: Should CDs that might offend people carry warning labels?

Procedure:

1. **Think about the topic.** Imagine that a CD contains violent lyrics. Read each of the following points of view. Which ones do you agree or disagree with? Circle your response.

Views	My Response	
The artist: I should be able to express my ideas in my own words. It isn't fair to label my work as 'dangerous.'	I Agree	I Disagree
Some parents: I don't want my child to be exposed to violence. Labels help me know which CDs my child should listen to.	I Agree	I Disagree
Some kids: I should be allowed to make my own choices about what I want to listen to. Labels aren't necessary.	I Agree	I Disagree
Some store owners: Some people get angry if I sell violent CDs without labels. I think labels are probably needed, but I won't sell anything with a warning label in my shop.	I Agree	I Disagree

2. **Choose your position.** Are warning labels necessary? You must choose to write your paper from one of the following perspectives:

Circle one

A music artist

A store owner

A parent

Then, considering that person's roles and responsibilities, select a position on the issue.

Check one

_____ **Pro:** I feel that CDs that might offend people should carry warning labels.

_____ **Con:** I feel that CDs that might offend people should not carry warning labels.

3. **Plan your paper.** Complete the following graphic organizer in order to plan your five paragraphs.

<u>Introduction (Thesis statement and position)</u>
<u>Body Paragraph 1 (1st reason)</u>
<u>Body Paragraph 2 (2nd reason)</u>
<u>Body Paragraph 3 (3rd reason)</u>
<u>Conclusion (Thesis restatement and body summation)</u>

Sample Graphic Organizer: A Store Owner's Perspective

Introduction (Thesis statement and position)

As the owner of a music store, I believe that CDs should not carry the "Parental Advisory: Explicit Lyrics" label.

Body Paragraph 1 (1st reason)

Labeling CDs may upset artists and ruin our rapport. Artists are needed for in-store appearances.

Body Paragraph 2 (2nd reason)

Parents should be responsible for what their children are listening to.

Body Paragraph 3 (3rd reason)

I believe that these warning labels inhibit people's voices from being heard thus negating the 'freedom of speech' portion of the first amendment.

Conclusion (Thesis restatement)

I'm sure that you can now see how, as a music store proprietor, I must oppose the posting of warning labels on CDs.