



## Listening Template

The listening template is designed to help you listen with greater awareness to the various musical elements of a song.  
It can be used individually, in small groups, or to facilitate a class discussion.

*Page 2 of this handout includes blank copies of this graphic organizer for future lesson plans.*

<u>Artist “Song Title”</u>	<u>Instrumentation/ Vocals</u>	<u>Mood</u>	<u>Tempo</u>	<u>Lyrics</u>	<u>Sounds Like / Genre</u>
<b>The Temptations</b> “My Girl”	<i>List the instruments you can hear in this recording, such as drums, percussion, bass, acoustic guitar, electric guitar, piano, organ, lead vocal, harmony vocal, background vocals, horns, strings, synthesizer, turntables, or sampling, etc.</i>	<i>What kind of mood or emotion does the song create? Romantic, dark, bright, sad, happy, urgent, dream-like, angry, scary, contemplative, hopeful, frustrated, playful, etc.</i>	<i>What is the rhythmic feel of the song? Fast, slow, moderate, mid-tempo, up-tempo, ballad, laid back, lilting, lively, etc.</i>	<i>Do you understand what the writer is trying to convey? Is there a definitive rhyming structure? Is there a clear story or narrative or are the lyrics more poetic and image-driven? What are the most effective images in the song? What do you think is the theme of this song?</i>	<i>If possible, name a song that seems similar to this recording in terms of instrumentation or theme. What genre(s) is this song? Blues, Jazz, Doo Wop, Pop, Folk, Rock and Roll, Soul, Singer-Songwriter, Disco, Metal, Hip Hop, etc.</i>
<b>Chuck Berry</b> “Johnny B. Goode”					

<u>Artist</u> <b><u>“Song Title”</u></b>	<u>Instrumentation/</u> <b><u>Vocals</u></b>  <i>List the instruments you can hear in this recording, such as drums, percussion, bass, acoustic guitar, electric guitar, piano, organ, lead vocal, harmony vocal, background vocals, horns, strings, synthesizer, turntables, or sampling, etc.</i>	<u>Mood</u>  <i>What kind of mood or emotion does the song create? Romantic, dark, bright, sad, happy, urgent, dream-like, angry, scary, contemplative, hopeful, frustrated, playful, etc.</i>	<u>Tempo</u>  <i>What is the rhythmic feel of the song? Fast, slow, moderate, mid-tempo, up-tempo, ballad, laid back, lilting, lively, etc.</i>	<u>Lyrics</u>  <i>Do you understand what the writer is trying to convey? Is there a definitive rhyming structure? Is there a clear story or narrative or are the lyrics more poetic and image-driven? What are the most effective images in the song? What do you think is the theme of this song?</i>	<u>Sounds Like / Genre</u>  <i>If possible, name a song that seems similar to this recording in terms of instrumentation or theme. What genre(s) is this song? Blues, Jazz, Doo Wop, Pop, Folk, Rock and Roll, Soul, Singer-Songwriter, Disco, Metal, Hip Hop, etc.</i>