

Analysing and Creating Protest Poetry and Lyrics: a student work ebook



Lessons and exercises based on
developing knowledge of and
skills in creating poetry and song
lyrics to make a better world

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1. What does protest mean?

So, what is all this protesting about? What's the attraction to standing up for your rights and beliefs or taking on an organisation or government? Have you ever considered what protesting actually is and what motivates people to protest? What about the history of protesting in our country?

Consider what protesting actually means. Have a go at writing a definition of protest yourself. Write your definition below.

You may have come up with the idea that when you protest you show your disapproval of something in a strong manner. The *Macquarie Dictionary* defines protest (n) as a formal expression or declaration of objection or disapproval, often in opposition to something which one is powerless to prevent or avoid.

In order to understand what protest means and the effect, we need to look at the world as it is and the world as it could be. Literature like poetry and songs in popular culture demonstrate a strong relationship between freedom of expression and protest.

Social issues that you desire to improve

In this work ebook you will be looking at how you can show your own personal power through protest. Consider the issues that you would like to change for the better in the society we live in. For example, bring about an end to coal seam gas mining or preserve the natural landscape.

Have you ever thought about what would make a better world to live in? Are you concerned about the treatment of refugees in this country or the commercialisation of fashion and religious celebrations like Christmas and Easter? How about the effect of mining companies on our environment or the culling of sharks or the killing of whales for food?

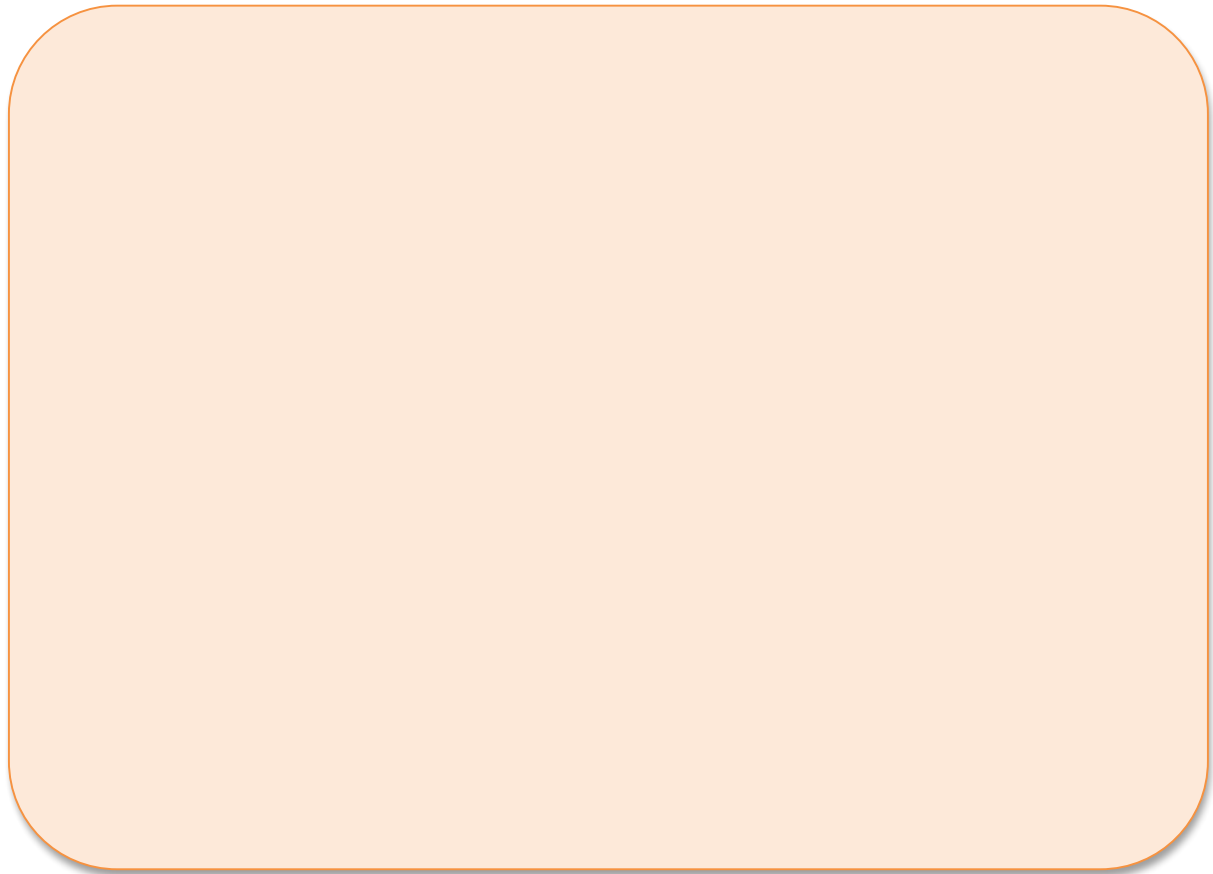
In this work ebook you will be exercising your right to protest to make a better world by considering the issues that you would like changed for the better and creating texts that make a stand against those who oppose your views.

Complete the exercise below.

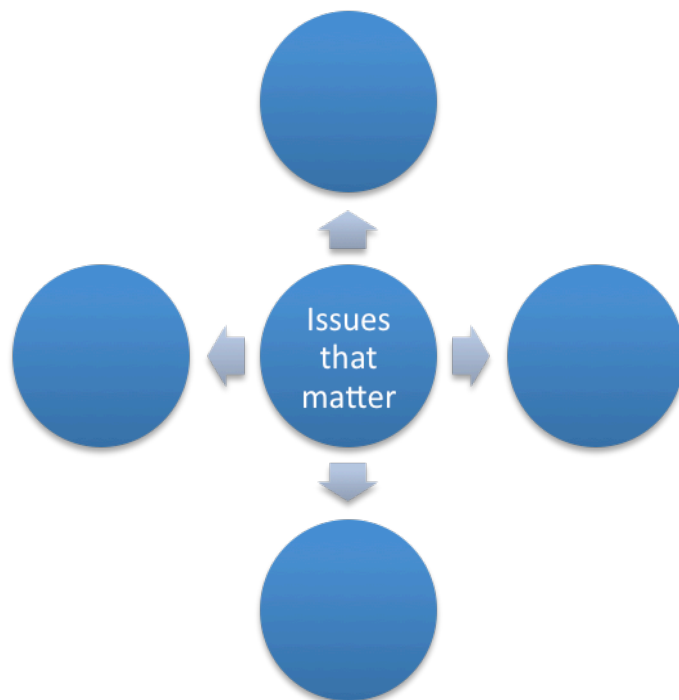
Exercise 1: Considering what would make a better world

What would make a better world to live in from your perspective? Create a wish list of what the world would look like. Consider issues such as human rights, the environment, immigration, the economy, social structures, relationships, commercialisation, etc.

Visually represent your ideal of what would make a better world. You can use symbols, images, graphics, drawings.



What do people protest about today? Make a mind map of the issues that matter in the world today in your community or personally. One example has been done for you.



Writing space

Handwriting practice lines consisting of multiple sets of three horizontal dashed lines.