

Great Ideas For Teaching: Using Music to Teach

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I play a different song each day immediately before my Psychology 101 class begins. Students know that when the music stops, class is beginning. My class meets at 8:00 AM, and I've found that music helps wake the students up (and me too!).

Selecting Music

Most of the songs I choose have a connection with the topic being covered that day (see other side). I also poll students on the first day of class to find out their music preferences, and let them know that they are welcome to make requests for particular songs.

If I'm searching for a song that contains lyrics to match a particular topic, I often Google the term(s) I'm interested in followed by the word "lyrics" (for example, type "addiction lyrics" into Google.com to search for songs about addiction).

You can also go to www.itunes.com to download the free iTunes music player. Then, use the Search option in the Store menu to search for songs. You can listen to a 30-second sample of a song before deciding whether to purchase it.

Amazon.com offers a similar option to iTunes, without needing to download a music player. Use the drop-down menu next to the search box on the Amazon.com home page to select "MP3 Downloads," then type your search terms into the search box. Like iTunes, you can listen to samples of the songs before buying them.

www.itunes.com and www.amazon.com are both great places to purchase music, typically \$0.99 or \$1.99 per song.

The following websites are a few examples of sites that offer **legal**, free music. Their selections will be more limited and less mainstream than iTunes or Amazon, but you may be able to find what you're looking for:

<http://betterpropaganda.com/>

<http://www.mp3raid.com/>

<http://www.last.fm/music/+free-music-downloads> – this site offers both free mp3 downloads as well as a large selection of streaming music

A more complete list of over 30 sites that offer legal, free mp3 downloads can be found at: <http://mashable.com/2008/06/30/free-legal-music-sites/>

Topics and Songs for Weinstein's Psych 101 Class

Introduction (first day): *Weird Science* by Oingo Boingo

Biology of Behavior: *Biological* by Air; *Biology* by Girls Aloud; *Genetic* by Sonic Youth

The Brain: *Insane in the Brain* by Cypress Hill

Sensation & Perception: *Suddenly I See* by KT Tunstall

Development: *Stay Up Late* by Talking Heads; *New Soul* by Yael Naim; *Young Folks* by Peter, Bjorn, and John

Development – Piaget: *Peek-a-boo* by Siouxsie & the Banshees

Development – Attachment: *Delirious Love* by Neil Diamond

Learning: *An Honest Mistake* by The Bravery; *You Learn* by Alanis Morissette

Memory: *Don't You (Forget About Me)* by Simple Minds

Thinking & Intelligence: *Think* by Aretha Franklin; *Stupid Girls* by Pink

Social Psychology – The Self: *Self Esteem* by The Offspring

Social Psychology – Altruism & Cooperation: *Help!* by The Beatles

Stress & Coping: *Under Pressure* by Queen featuring David Bowie

Motivation: *You Can't Always Get What You Want* by The Rolling Stones

Motivation – Sex: *SexyBack* by Justin Timberlake featuring Timbaland

Motivation – Drugs: *Rehab* by Amy Winehouse

Emotion: *I Second That Emotion* by Smokey Robinson and the Miracles; *Smile Like You Mean It* by The Killers

Personality: *Split Personality* by Pink

Psychopathology: *Crazy* by Gnarls Barkley; *She's Hearing Voices* by Bloc Party

Psychopathology – Treatment: *Fix You Up* by Tegan & Sara