

## **Punk and the Making of Self Assignment — Zine Page 12: Songs**

With a partner, write a song. To help you along, use the previous class handouts on songwriting as guidance, and as a starting point, use your and your partners' lists of 10 song ideas. You may either continue one of your begun ideas or you may start a new one; either way, be sure to collaborate in the editing, honing, and making of the song. Strive to listen to your partner and work together. Allow yourself to compromise. If you find yourself handling most of the music, step back a bit when it comes to the words, for example.

Strongly consider giving your song verses and choruses (and a bridge if you like), structuring them in a way that sharpens the song's meaning.

As the "I Know Nothing About Music" handout advises, feel free to use recording devices (phone or laptop; try using Audacity or Garage Band). Plow ahead with your songmaking. If neither of you can sing, then speak, yell, or let a computer speech program take vocal duties.

Put real effort into this. Make it as good as you can. If you don't believe in it, your audience won't either. This may involve putting aside certain aspects of fear, reservation, shyness, self-consciousness, ego, modesty, or doubt. Doing so can be as freeing and genuinely educational an experience as any other you will have in college: *be unafraid to become someone else for the duration of this song*. In turn, afford your partner and your classmates an encouraging, respectful safe space in which to do so.

Regardless of what sort of song you come up with, we'll hear it in class. You and your partner may either play a recording (as low-tech or high-tech as you like, with or without video) or give a live rendition. You may recruit any additional performers you need, and you may use any sort of performative props or visuals you like. Along with a lyric sheet, these playbacks/performances will count as the submission of the project.

**Grading will be out of 3 points: 1 for the clarity, effort, and inventiveness in its lyrics, 1 for the clarity, effort, and inventiveness in its music, 1 for the energy and convincingness of its performance.**