

Teacher Instructions:

Problem Scenario: *“Background Music”*

The Main Problem: **A primary school is thinking of playing background music in the classroom as students work. Is it a good idea?**

Your students will be viewing this problem from a **social studies** perspective.



Is music really significant?

Students will review the role of music in world history.

Using this argument, they will present an argument as to why music is significant, as well as propose how it can best be used to help students.

Step ①

Review
Stimulus
Items

Stimulus Item #1 — “National Anthem” (essay)

Stimulus Item #2 — “A Quick Thought on Music” (editorial)

***Students should take notes as they review the Stimulus Items.*

If time allows, students are encouraged to conduct their own research!

Step ②

Classroom
Discussion

Lead a **class discussion** about issues related to the topic. You are being provided a sheet to help you guide the classroom discussion.

Step ③

Student
Response

****students should have access to their notes as they enter their answers*

****students may also have access to the Stimulus Items as they enter their answers*

Product Option: Divide your students into small groups, and have each group **create a brochure** called, “*The Power of Music.*” The purpose of the brochure is to convince people that music is more than just a source of entertainment. To do this, students will want to cite examples of how music has been used through the ages. For example, it has been used to motivate people, unite them (such as national anthems), and record history. Discuss how studying music that originated in a certain time period might help you understand the people and events of that time period.

Extended Response: Have students answer the following questions using the online assessment system. Remind students to use information from the Stimulus Items to support their response.

- 1) **It is difficult to quantify the power of music. Try to answer the question, “Why is music important?” Cite examples throughout human history to strengthen your argument.**
- 2) **In what ways is music used today in a way that is similar to how it was used in ancient times? What are differences in the way it is used?**

Step ④

Analysis

Rubrics to grade student entries have been provided, and all questions have been mapped to the content standards. Results can be analyzed through the online system.