



Creating Poetry and Songs to Teach (and Learn) ANYTHING!

*Musical activity presented by Dr. Russell Robinson of the
University of Florida College of the Arts in celebration of 352Creates*

Best for: All ages

Goal: Students will make a melody for a sample lyric, and have the skills to write poetry and music for any academic subject.

I. Why teach songwriting in the regular classroom?

- Allows group and individual learning (team building!)
- Reinforces teaching concepts
- Exposes students of all ages to singing

II. Sample lyric - Can you “hear” a melody in your head?

*Brothers and sisters around the world, we join together in song.
From near and far each one can sing, because we all belong.
Let all now sing this song together, and sing this melody.
Let all now sing this song together, and live in harmony.*

Strategy: Have students read the poem together.

1. Ask students who have a melody “in their head” for the first line. Listen to as many that volunteer. Then, have them select one and all sing it.
2. Do this for the second line, then have all sing lines 1 and 2.
3. Do this for the third line, then have all sing lines 1, 2 and 3.
4. Do this for the fourth line, then have all sing all four lines.

Great, you have composed a melody (without having to know anything about music) to a poem!

III. Extensions: Have students write a group poem for any topic you are learning in class. Then, do what you did on step 2 above. Usually there is someone who can play guitar or piano to play an accompaniment to the song. If not, that’s ok. When they write a poem and create a song to the poem, they will learn the concept/skill that they wrote about.



This activity is based on the book and accompanying 20 track CD – Creating Poetry and Songs to Teach ANYTHING! by Russell Robinson, published by Superior Educational Publishing with sample songs on Science, English, History and Math. Available for purchase for \$29+ shipping from www.RussellRobinson.com.