

# American Idol

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History

Your task is to create a short musical performance to teach the class about some aspect of the Jeffersonian Era. Your musical performance should be factual, lively, and memorable. The use of humor and physical motions will add to the overall effectiveness of the presentation. Setting your song to some well-known beat will aid in creating and presenting your song.

The following topics will be covered. Circle your assigned topic. Songs will also be presented in this order.

Topics:

- 1) The Election of 1800
- 2) Marbury v. Madison and Judicial Review
- 3) Louisiana Purchase (do not discuss Lewis and Clark at all)
- 4) Lewis and Clark's Expedition
- 5) Pike's Expedition
- 6) Barbary Pirates
- 7) The Embargo Act
- 8) Tecumseh and the Prophet
- 9) War of 1812-The First Phase of the War
- 10) War of 1812- The Second Phase of the War

## How to Begin:

Start by going into your textbook and collecting a list of key facts or events related to your topic. Put these into a brief outline following the format discussed in class. In order to write a song about the topic, you must fully understand it. Next, brainstorm within your group different rhyming lines that explain the key facts. Don't judge your initial thoughts too critically. Don't worry about starting with line one of your song. You can assemble your lines in order as your brainstorming progresses. Write everything down. Don't try to cram too much detail into your song. As you begin to pull your song together, you will naturally replace weaker lines with stronger ones. The key again, is not killing ideas before they have a chance to grow.

## Presentation Requirements:

Every member of your group must participate in the presentation. Each member of your group must have a final copy of the lyrics, thus insuring everyone will know the correct lines. Your show must reflect practice (this is extremely important). A neatly typed final copy must be turned in prior to the performance. Your presentation must be at least 20 lines long excluding any chorus (your song may be longer).

## Additional information:

Try to make your audience laugh while **teaching** them the truth. Your performance must be live, however, a recorded performance will be accepted for grading purposes (this is optional). Music video on DVD may be presented in stead a live performance.

Have fun and be creative!

Primary Source Requirement:

Below is a primary source that relates to your topic. You must be able to identify at least one section in your lyrics that is influenced by your reading and discussion of this primary source. You will have one 10-15 conference with your group and teacher to discuss this source and how it relates to your topic.

- 1) The Election of 1800 - [Alexander Hamilton writes to Harrison Otis encouraging Federalist to vote for Thomas Jefferson in the 1800 Presidential Election](#)
- 2) Marbury v. Madison and Judicial Review - [Thomas Jefferson to George Hay, June 2 1807](#)
- 3) Louisiana Purchase (do not discuss Lewis and Clark at all) – [Jefferson to the Wolf and People of the Mandan Nation Washington December 30, 1806](#)
- 4) Lewis and Clark Expedition - [President Jefferson 1806 State of the Union Address](#)
- 5) Pike's Expedition
- 6) Barbary Pirates
- 7) The Embargo Act – [Thomas Jefferson to Albert Gallatin, July 25 1808](#)
- 8) Tecumseh and the Prophet - [Thomas Jefferson to John Adams April 20 1812](#)
- 9) War of 1812 - [Jefferson writes Adams January 21 1812](#)