

# WS14 COLLEGE Lesson Plan

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**Title: Celebration of Barbershop Quartet**

**Length of Lesson: two class periods**

**Grade Level: College**

## **Objective:**

This episode of WoodSongs Old-Time Radio Hour, focuses on the harmonies of barbershop quartets. Barbershop quartets were singing by ear and acapella. These quartet groups began with people singing harmonies that made sense to them. Barbershop quartets actually started while people were waiting at a barber shop. Barbershop quartets offered a sense of community as those involved sang and created harmonies that made sense to them. This allowed those of various cultures and backgrounds to find a common sense of community through music.

## **Description of Lesson/Activities & Procedures:**

Students will listen to the songs performed in this episode of WoodSongs. Students are encouraged to listen for the various genres of music that are being performed in a barbershop quartet style. After listening to the various songs, students will write down their thoughts on these performances in a journal entry. Students will also be encouraged to reflect upon a song that would like to hear and possibly perform in a barbershop quartet style. Encourage the students to acknowledge that some of the songs performed are not songs that they may think of when they think of a barbershop quartet. Have the students to acknowledge the creativity within each performance.

Students will then explore the idea of how music and art bring people together. Students will choose two songs that they would like to hear and/or perform in a barbershop quartet style. This activity encourages students to think about how they may also create music and/or art to bring about peace and a sense of community. The song they choose should deliver a message of peace and encouragement. This activity encourages creativity as well as research skills as they research their song and the meaning of it. Information such as who wrote the song, symbolism in the writing, and the message of peace and encouragement should be explored. Students will have their song choice, information about the song, why they feel it delivers a message of peace, and why they have chosen this song. Encourage students to reflect upon if they believe that feelings evoked by the song would be different if it were sang in a barbershop quartet style. Students will also design an informational written paper in which they explain the history of the song, it's message of peace, and the time in which the song was written. Students will also be encouraged to include what was going historically during this time. The historical aspect will be a major portion of the informational paper. This paper should include at least four reliable and scholarly sources.

## Goals & Objectives:

- Knowledge of music as applied to creating their own version of a song/sounds of a barbershop quartet style
- Builds communication and critical thinking skills via discussion and journal writing
- Connection to their life experience when selecting a song
- Students will learn the ways that music encourages equality by listening and researching freedom artists and the musical messages of artists featured in this episode of WoodSongs
- Students will reflect upon what it means to have a voice as a way to deliver a message
- Students will learn the ways that they may deliver important social justice messages and encourage community by designing their own music and/or art

## Rubric and Guidelines:

The following are guidelines in which you may assess student's understanding and application of this episode of the *WoodSongs Old-Time Radio Hour*:

- Demonstrates an understanding of artistic and musical expression as it relates to encouraging community and togetherness
- Demonstrates an understanding of the information presented within the episode, and understands how music relays this message.
- Demonstrates an understanding of how their projects will express important points through art and musical expression
- Understanding is clear of how music expresses important points, as demonstrated by the WoodSongs Old-Time Radio Hour
- Students understand difference in informational text versus creative project design

### Creative Project/Presentation Scoring Sheet

<b>Creativity/Presentation of material</b>	/
	/
	/
	/
	/
	/
	/
<b>Total</b>	<b>/100</b>