

Write and Perform a Song About an Energy Source

A ★ by a set of instructions means there is an assignment that must be completed and checked by your teacher. Write all of the assignments neatly, and check them for spelling, punctuation, and grammar. Here is a checklist of your assignments:

- List facts about your energy source/topic.
- Write a song.
- Write an introduction for your musical group.
- Write an interview.
- Design album art.

Let's Go!

▪ Step One—Learn About Your Energy Source

- ★ Working as a group, read your infosheet and underline or select the most important facts in each section. You will use these facts in your group's name, song, and interview. Try to find 10–20 facts and write them down on a piece of paper.

▪ Step Two—Name That Group!

- ★ Select a name for your musical group, using the information you have learned. Be clever, creative, and original!

▪ Step Three—Pick That Tune!

- ★ Think about songs you can use as a guide. You can use a rock song, pop song, rap, folk tune, nursery rhyme, or theme from a television show or commercial. Take the first lines from a few songs and try to make up lyrics of your own. Pick the tune that is the easiest to use.

▪ Step Four—Write That Tune!

- ★ Using your list of facts, begin writing your group's song and name it. Your energy song must tell at least five facts about your energy source.

▪ Step Five—Write the Group Introduction

- ★ Write a three to four sentence introduction that the host will read to the audience before your grand entrance. Your introduction should present several important facts about your energy source, as well as the name of your song and album.

▪ Step Six—Write a Four-Question/Answer Interview

- ★ Working as a group, write four questions and answers for the interview. Keep in mind that both the questions and answers should say something about your energy source. If you need help, look at the sample interview or your list of facts.

▪ Step Seven—Design Album Art

- ★ Using the name of your group and your hit single, brainstorm cover designs for your album. Assign one member of your group to bring the sketch to life. Use a poster for your final album art.

▪ Step Eight—Props, Costumes, and Scenery

Create a look for your group. Props, costumes, and simple scenery will help get your point across to your audience. For example, members of a solar group could wear yellow clothing and sunglasses or, you may choose to make props that parody your group/artist name. Brainstorm ideas for props and costumes. Once you've settled on a plan, assign various jobs to group members.

▪ Step Nine—Rehearse Again and Again and ...

Rehearse your performance as many times as possible. Things to consider:

- Is the group loud enough so everyone can hear and understand the song?
- Are the costumes and props appropriate? Do they make sense for your source and song?
- Are you enthusiastic in your delivery?
- Can you add dance steps or arm movements?
- Does everyone know his or her part? Do not read the lyrics during your performance!

▪ The Final Step—Your Performance

The big day is here! Your group's performance is next. When it's your turn to perform, the host will introduce you using the introduction that your group wrote. You should display your album art, name your hit song, and perform your song. After your performance, the host will ask you the interview questions that your group wrote. Have a great time!

Biomass

Introduction

(The scene is a band stage. The host of the show addresses the audience.)

PAULY POWER: Our next group has been around for a long time, doing lots of different kinds of music. Though you might not recognize them by their formal name, their work will sound familiar. Let's give a warm welcome to Bernie and the Biomasters, singing their new hit single from their "Waste Heat" album, "Biomessage."

(Bernie and the Biomasters perform their song to the tune of "When The Saints Go Marching In.")

Original Lyrics

Oh, when the saints go marching in
Oh, when the saints go marching in
How I want to be in that number
When the saints go marching in

Parody Lyrics

Waste-to-energy—it can't be beat
For making lots of hot steam heat
That is used to make electric power
To light up your darkest hour

The leaves that fall, the grasses you mow
The skins of apple and potato
Can be composted—it's not too hard
To enrich your garden and your yard

Oh, let your corn grow big and tall
And make it into ethanol
It burns clean and it's renewable
We use it as an auto fuel

Interview

PAULY POWER: Where do the members of your group come from?

BERNIE: We come from all over the country—forests, dumps, even cornfields.

PAULY POWER: Who generates most of your music?

CORNIE: The woodwind section of our band is definitely the biggest.

PAULY POWER: How does your band travel from concert to concert?

FILL: We always travel in a converted garbage truck. We use the trash to make some electric tunes, man!

PAULY POWER: And what do you use for fuel?

BERNIE: We just drive into the nearest cornfield and distill our own fuel—ethanol—for the truck.

PAULY POWER: Where does your band get its enormous energy?

SOL: From the sun—we have lots of photosynthesis sessions for the band.