Close Reading Outline

The objective of this assignment is to develop analytical skills and apply close reading strategies to a set of heavy metal lyrics. To get started on the assignment, you will **develop your thesis and provide an outline of your essay**. **Include as much detail as possible so that I can provide you with useful feedback.**

1. Choose a song to analyze from the following list: Song Lyric Options. You may also choose another song but I must approve it before you begin.

2. Listen to the song and carefully read the lyrics. All lyrics are available on [Dark Lyrics.](#).

3. As you read the lyrics, mark anything that seems relevant or interesting to you, even if you are unsure of why that particular portion of text stands out. Pay attention to any parts with rich imagery, interesting language or unique patterns. Who is speaking and what is their tone? Note any symbolism or cultural/historical references. Do you notice any figurative language such as metaphors and similes? Is there rhyming, repetition, contrast, or similarities? What is the significance of these literary devices? Do they add emphasis or connect ideas? Look beneath the surface of the lyrics to uncover less obvious themes.

4. Use your observations to develop a focused and descriptive thesis that argues for *your interpretation* of the song's meaning.

5. Include your thesis statement as Roman numeral I. Continue with Roman numerals to outline the main points that support your thesis. **It may be helpful to organize your main points around literary devices (i.e. narrative perspective, metaphors, imagery, etc.) because you should avoid just interpreting the song line by line.** These main points will become the topic sentences of each paragraph in your final essay. Use capital letters (A, B, C, etc.) to divide your main points into supporting details and if you need to further divide them into subpoints, use Arabic numerals (1, 2, 3, etc.). You may also include one point that describes the relevance of musical techniques in the song (if applicable).