

## English 12

Mr. Monsen

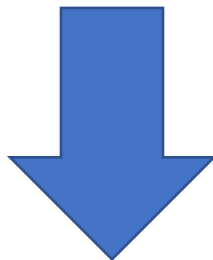
### Writing a Line From A Song Piece

**Directions:** Complete steps 1-9 in order in your notebook.

**Step 1: Brainstorm** ideas by completing the four steps below:

- 1) Name five songs that you like and explain why you like each song.
- 2) Write down three specific lines from different songs that you think describe you as a person or how you live your life or what you believe in philosophically. Just write the line down, don't explain why you like this line. We will do that next. Avoid inappropriate words and such, if possible. Remember, we are in school.
- 3) Explain in detail why one of the lines you just wrote down is important to you personally.
- 4) Explain in detail why a different one of the lines you just wrote down is also important to you personally.

**Step 2: Read** the sample Line From A Song piece below entitled “Be Here Now, Just Be Safe” and answer the questions that go with it.



## Be Here Now, Just Be Safe

**“The gods envy us. They envy us because we’re mortal, because any moment may be our last. Everything is more beautiful because we’re doomed. You will never be lovelier than you are now. We will never be here again.”** – Achilles from the movie *Troy*

Some say they live for the day, or even the moment. And some say that life is short, so don’t squander opportunities to live like it is your last day. YOLO – a slang term created by some rapper that has permeated the heart of the teenage rebellion. Young adults around the country are screaming this phrase as they participate in things they never have done before, and take chances, because “you never know if today is your last...”. But there is a problem.

Sure, today may be your last. And yes, you should take chances of some sort, and live outside the box at times, so you can experience new and exciting things. However, some young people use this mantra as a way to exhibit dangerously stupid behavior on a regular basis. “Who wants to car surf on my roof at sixty miles per hour?” YOLO! “Anyone want to drop out of college with me and travel the world for a few years?” YOLO! “I know I missed six straight days of work to sit on my couch and play video games...” YOLO! The thing about YOLO is... it has consequences.

If you don’t want to live a long happy life, live in the moment and car surf at sixty. If you don’t want to get a college degree or have the potential of getting a profitable career for yourself, drop out college and travel for a few years. If you don’t need money, stay home for six days and play video games. In my opinion though, there needs to be balance.

Living in the moment is a real thing. It’s the conscious act of appreciating life while you’re living it, instead of always thinking about the future or the past. Living in the moment takes work, hard work. You have to be aware of what’s around you, and make a real effort to slow down and enjoy what’s around you, even if you feel like you have other things going on.

Living in the moment involves trying new things like surfing, but just not car surfing. Instead of jumping on the roof of a car and trying to cheat death, maybe hire a professional to give you lessons on surfing in the ocean and do it the right way. You are still living in the moment, and you will have the chance to live in the moment more, later in life, when you are still around because you thought about the consequences of riding on top of a speeding car. You want to travel, do it. Maybe travel for a few months on your summer off, or take more road trips with your friends, but don’t drop out of school to travel the world and throw away your future. Do it right, and consider the consequences, and you will end up much better in the long run.

So, next time you are about to scream “YOLO!” and do something stupid, please stop and consider the consequences. Living in the moment is a good thing, but when it negatively affects your future, it might not be the best thing for you.

**Word Count: 572**

## **“Be Here Now, Just Be Safe” Questions**

1. What was this piece about?
2. What is the meaning of the line chosen by the author of this piece?
3. In your opinion, what was good about this piece?
4. In your opinion, what was not good about this piece?

**Step 3: Copy** the “**Characteristics of a Line From A Song Piece**” notes below into your notebook:

<b>Characteristics of a Line From A Song Piece</b>
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- Focuses on a quote or line from a song or movie which had a particular significance in the writer’s life
- Has a particular focus, an element (big idea) which receives the most emphasis
- Reveals the writer’s knowledge of and feeling about the quote
- Includes the author’s feelings and thoughts
- Has reflection scattered throughout
- Displays the unique voice of the writer

**Step 4: Read** the directions for this assignment below:

**Directions:** Take a line from a song or a movie and use it as the central focus in a 400-600 word non-fiction essay, where you describe in-depth and creatively, how that specific line describes you as a person, or how you live your life, or what you believe in philosophically. You can, but do not have to, start your writing piece with the line from the song you have chosen. The line has to be somewhere in your writing piece. It can be repeated as often as you like throughout the piece for effect.

**Step 5: Copy** the “Line From A Song” Outline below into your notebook:

### **Line From A Song Outline**

I. **Effective Lead** – Grab the reader’s attention in a creative way

II. **Body # 1** – Explain/talk about the quote

III. **Body # 2** – Describe how the quote ties into your life or your view of life

IV. **Conclusion** – End in a memorable way

\*\*\***Bold** the quote somewhere in your paper.

**Step 6: Read** the two lessons listed below for the skills “**Developing A Unique Voice and Using Ellipsis**” and **then copy** the definitions/rules of each into your notebook:

#### **Developing a Voice in Writing**

- 1) Each writer has a distinct personality.
- 2) Words should capture the writer's personality.
- 3) Careful word choice, punctuation, paragraphing, and style help strengthen a writer's voice.

**Ellipsis...** three dots that indicate a dramatic pause or omission of a word or words that are unnecessary.

**Step 7: Write** your own Line From A Song piece in your notebook. Try incorporating as many skills as you can into this piece. It will only make the piece better.

**Skills You Can Use (at this point of the year, you have a lot of skills to chose from)**

effective lead

fragments for effect

run-ons for effect

developing a unique voice

variety of Sentence Length

ellipsis...

repetition for effect

commas in a series

organizing my writing clearly    effective title

figurative language

using a dash/hyphen

starting with an -ing word

semi-colon/colon

commonly confused words

using an epigraph

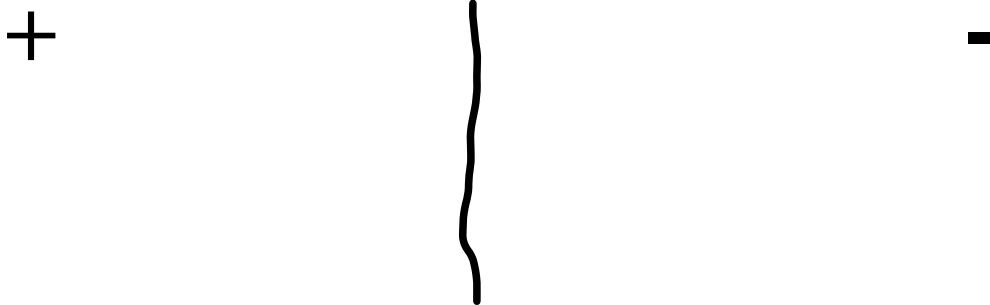
using transitional words

appositives to combine

repetition for effect

**Step 8: Complete the Revision Activity** on the next page for your Line From A Song piece:

**Revision Activity:** Copy the +/- chart below into your notebook. Use the directions below the chart to revise your *Line From A Song Essay*:



**Answer the questions below about your writing piece:**

What is the best part about this essay?

Which part of this essay could use improvement?

Did you notice any mistakes that were made frequently throughout the essay?

Are there any skills I used that really helped the essay? Or are there any that were missed that would help the essay?

*See the list of skills we learned for this piece in Step 7.*

**Step 9:** Type up the **final copy** of your Line From A Song Piece to look like the sample you read earlier.

**Step 10:** Submit it to **Google Classroom** by the deadline.