



Music Industry Debate



Name(s)

Class

Date

Directions

There is a big debate in the music industry over whether it is legal and ethical to sample and remix copyrighted materials without the permission of the original creators. You will be assigned to role-play a group of people who have very different perspectives about this question, and prepare responses to a debate about this issue. The groups are:

- Musicians who use sampling and remixing in the music they create
- Musicians who have been sampled or remixed without credit, permission, or payment
- Fans who like both kinds of musicians
- People in the recording industry who make money from selling music
- Lawyers whose job is to protect artists from copyright violations

Based on your role, brainstorm responses to the questions below. Write down your main points to these questions, and be prepared to defend your position in a debate with other groups who might disagree with you.

1. What does your group think about musicians who sample and remix claiming fair use? Is it fair use or stealing? Why?

2. How do musicians who sample and remix copyrighted materials without permission affect the original creators of the work?



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3. How would it affect the creators of remixes if they had to get permission and pay for everything they used?

4. How are music fans affected by copyright law and fair use guidelines?

5. How would society be affected if there were no copyright laws? How would it be affected if there was no fair use?
