

INSTRUCTIONS for NON-RACE DEI CATEGORY QUESTIONS

Could the message/lyrics of the song, original or subsequent, limit any singer or audience member’s ability to engage, related to the categories below?

- **Checking a category does not imply that the song is demeaning or exclusionary and does NOT affect admissibility.** You will explain your answer in the follow-up question.

This is not an all-inclusive list of factors that are impactful, but is a starting point for some things to consider when thinking about the song.

AGE

Check this category if the answer to *either or both* of the following is YES:

- a) Do the lyrics/message of the song **identify a specific age or time of life** for the narrator or fellow singers? I.e., youth (e.g., [When I’m 64](#)), mature (e.g., [It Was a Very Good Year](#))
- b) Do the lyrics/message of the song reinforce **harmful stereotypes** or do they **make fun** of challenges associated with a specific age group? E.g., [There’ll Be Some Changes Made](#) ('Cause nobody wants you when you're old and gray) and [Diamonds Are a Girl’s Best Friend](#) (Men grow cold as girls grow old, And we all lose our charm in the end.)

DISABILITY

Check this category if the answer to *either or both* of the following is YES:

- a) Is a **specific disability identified** in the lyrics in any way?
- b) Do the lyrics/message of the song reinforce **harmful stereotypes** or do they **make fun** of those with disabilities? Is there language that is *offensive* to the disabled community (e.g., moron, idiot, retarded, dumb, cripple, lame, handicapped, dwarf, midget, etc.) See p. [3 of this reference](#), and also [this reference](#). Is there language that is trivializing? See [reference1](#) & [reference2](#).
 - ☒ e.g., [Mary Did You Know](#) (the dumb will speak), [Holding Out for a Hero](#) (He’s gotta be strong, and he’s gotta be fast), [It’s A Good Day](#) (So take a deep breath and throw away the pills)
 - ☐ It is **NOT** problematic for a song to reference an ability you think a disabled person may not have—e.g., dancing.

GENDER

Check this category if the answer to *either or both* of the following is YES:

- a) Is gender identified in one or both of the following ways?
 - gender of the **narrator or fellow singers/audience members** noted or implied specifically as male or female? (e.g., [When I Just Wear My Smile](#) | [The Path We Walk Together](#) | [Something Inside So Strong](#))
 - Is **generalized male-gendered language** used to refer to all people (e.g., “peace among men”)? ([The Power of the Dream](#))
 - ☒ The gender of other specific characters in the song does NOT factor into this question. (E.g., Gender is *not* checked for [Danny Boy](#) or [Dancing Queen](#)).
 - ☐ Gendered exclamations such as *sister, brother, mister* (common in songs of certain styles/eras) do NOT factor into this question. e.g., [Straighten Up and Fly Right](#) (papa, Jack).
 - ☐ The use of first person pronouns (*I, my*) is gender neutral unless modified by gender pronouns (e.g., “I’m a girl with class”, “my feminine wiles”).
- b) Do the lyrics/message of the song somehow reinforce **harmful stereotypes** or do they **make fun** of a specific gender? (e.g.,

RELIGION

This question refers to religious content or reference to religious holidays or practices. It does not concern whether or not the song contains topics that may be unacceptable in some religions.

- Checking this category does NOT mean the song is demeaning in any way (unless you explain it as such in the follow-up question).

Check this category if the answer to either or both of the following is YES:

- a) Do the lyrics or message of the song contain any references to religious ideology or religious practices/holidays?
 - ☒ This includes songs that are secular in nature that reference a holiday that pertains to a specific religion *and* is pertinent to the message of the song. e.g., *White Christmas*
 - ☐ This does *not* include songs in which there is a passing reference to a holiday or heaven or an exclamation (e.g., Lordy, hallelujah) that is not integral to the message of the song. E.g., [Pulled](#) (Lollipops and pillow fights and Christmas eve ... Angels watching as I sleep).
 - ☐ Also *not* included is use of otherwise religious terminology in a secular fashion, e.g. pray, angel, heaven, hell. See [In the Still of the Nite](#)
- b) Do the lyrics/message of the song somehow reinforce **harmful stereotypes** or do they **make fun** of religion or a specific religion?

SEXUAL ORIENTATION

Check this category if the answer to either or both of the following is YES:

- a) Is the gender of *the narrator’s* love-interest noted or implied specifically as male or female or is sexuality otherwise implied*?
 - *For example, [Get Me to the Church on Time](#) does not identify the gender of the love interest (the person the narrator is marrying), but has lines like, “girls, come and kiss me” -- which does imply the sexual orientation of the narrator. So the Sexual Orientation category is checked.
 - *On the other hand, a song like [Stop in the Name of Love](#) does not identify the gender of the love interest nor does it imply it. The lyrics do identify the gender of the third-party romantic interloper ("before you run to *her*"), but unless we take a [heteronormative](#) approach, this does not necessarily imply the gender of the narrator's love interest (nor that of the narrator). So the Sexual Orientation category is not checked.
 - *Likewise, if the sexual orientation *of a third party* is identified this does not have implications for the narrator, so Sexual Orientation is *not* checked. E.g., in [No No Norman](#), the song is about a heterosexual couple and is told in the third person, so there are no implications for the narrator. Sexual Orientation is not checked.
- b) Do the lyrics/message of the song somehow reinforce **harmful stereotypes** or do they make fun of those who are not heterosexual?

VISIBLE PHYSICAL DIFFERENCES

Check this category if the answer to either or both of the following is YES:

- a) Are visible physical differences (e.g., height, weight, unattractive features) referenced in any way?

- b) Do the lyrics/message of the song reinforce **harmful stereotypes** or do they **make fun** of those with these physical differences (e.g. portraying certain physical characteristics like weight or height as better or worse)?

OTHER

Answer YES if there are other factors that might limit any singer or audience member’s ability to engage that are not covered by the designated categories.

For example, it is used when a song’s message/lyrics might be deemed not-family-friendly. Select YES if the answer to any of following is YES:

- a) Do the lyrics of the song include language that might be considered profanity? E.g., [The Jam](#) ("damm"), [Rolling in the Deep](#) ("sh*t")
- b) Do the lyrics/message of the song include overt or implied sexuality? E.g., [Get Lucky](#) ("we're up all night to get some"), [Nobody Does it Better](#)

If there are other factors in the lyrics/message you think may be problematic, please select this category and explain your reasoning.