

Visualizing History Analyzing Jazz Album Covers

- **Similarities/Differences** (Based on pgs. 178-179, *Engagement in Teaching History*, by Frederick D. Drake and Lynn R. Nelson)
Process: This is a think-pair-share activity. Display two album covers that students can compare.
 - *Think:* On a sheet of paper, have students identify three characteristics that are similar and three characteristics that are different between the two album covers. Give them one minute to do each task.
 - *Pair:* Students exchange their findings with another student for one minute.
 - *Share:* Call on students at random to share their comparative findings.
 - Relate findings to the theme, era or period of jazz history you are studying.

- **Quadrant/Hemisphere Analysis** (Based on pgs.179-181, *Engagement in Teaching History*, by Frederick D. Drake and Lynn R. Nelson and the “Musical Analysis Tool” created by Marcie Jergel Hutchinson and Lauren McArthur Harris for Social Education, May/June 2016)
Process: The focus is on observation in this form of analysis.
 - Display an image. Tell students they have 20 seconds to remember what they see on the album cover. Cover the album. Ask them to write down what they observed. On a chalk/white board or large piece of paper, write down their observations.
 - Divide the album cover into two halves. Reveal a half at a time. Students have 30 seconds to write down the objects, people, landscape, patterns, lettering, etc. in this section of the album cover. Repeat the procedure until the students have viewed the entire album cover.
 - Ask students to pair and share the details they observed in each section.
 - Then ask the students to describe the album cover using historical and musical context:
 - What is the title of the album?
 - Name the artist or band. What style of jazz was recorded on the album?
 - When was this album recorded, or released?
 - Create a list of events happening in the world/country/ region at the time.
 - Name the company that recorded the album.
 - Where was the album recorded?
 - Who was the artist that created the album cover?
 - What is the background of the artist? (nationality, gender, social class, ethnicity, training, etc.)
 - What is the message of the album cover? What is the artist trying to do? Explain using specific references from the album, historical events and/or the music inside the cover.
 - Based on your description and analysis of the piece, who was the intended audience for the album cover? Would it effectively sell the music? Explain.
 - Lasting Impression: What is the most memorable or powerful aspect of this piece? Explain.