

Authentic Assessment: Personal Walk-Up Music



Ricky “Wild Thing” Vaughn in the movie *Major League* (1989)

Premise:

At times we all need a little music to pump ourselves up to give us the confidence to perform to the best of our abilities. Consider the music that inspires you in your life. If you needed to choose one song to give you strength and courage in a particular moment, what song would it be? Think about the Major League Baseball players who can choose the song that plays over the loudspeakers when they come up to the plate to hit or come out of the bullpen to pitch. Similar to the character of Ricky “Wild Thing” Vaughn in the movie *Major League*—who chose X’s cover version of the Troggs’ original song “Wild Thing”—what would your song be?

Directions:

Students should choose a song for their personal walk-up music and then create an audio excerpt of no longer than 30 seconds to play for the class as part of a PowerPoint or Google Slides presentation. After introducing and playing the excerpt, students should create slides containing the lyrics and explain why those words in conjunction with the music give them personal strength, power, and confidence.

Assessment:

Student walk-up presentations will be worth 20 points based on a combination of teacher and student evaluations. Presentations will be judged on the insight and depth of the analysis, the creativity and originality of the selections, and the overall professionalism of the presentation.