We Didn’t Start the Fire

In 1989, singer Billy Joel’s song, “We didn’t Start the Fire” debuted on the album Storm Front. It was a huge hit and an interesting chronology of the Cold War era. Joel wrote the song on his 40th birthday to chronicle the major events that had occurred in his lifetime and that he remembered. He references 120 events in this 40-year period.

Assignment:

- Listen to the song and watch the video online.
  - Define each topic/lyric on the given sheet in 5-10 words or less
    - [http://www.school-for-champions.com/history/start_fire_facts.htm](http://www.school-for-champions.com/history/start_fire_facts.htm)
    - Other sites are fine but know the proper context of each lyric
  - After listening to the lyrics one or two times, develop 4-6 different categories that you can use to organize the lyrics
  - Organize each of the lyrics into your categories and create a chart for this.

- Now the fun part:
  - 2000/2001-2017= Your own lyrics
  - Think about the categories that Billy Joel used for his lyrics (Sports/Music/Entertainment/Politics/International/Etc) and then come up with 4-6 of your own similar categories (don’t have to be the same)
  - Remember that your lyrics must be chronological.
  - These should be seminal national/world events, people, music, sports, domestic policy, foreign policy, etc that happened during this period.
  - We should recognize these lyrics but I want them to be personally important. Not everyone will have the same. For the most part it is what you remember.
  - Billy Joel had 120 different lyrics. You only need 40.
    - Suggestion- Work backwards.
  - Rhyme? Are you that good? (10 pts extra credit)
  - Extra Credit= You sing it in class! (20 pts extra credit).

Points:

- Definitions: 20 Pts.
- Category/Chart: 10 Pts.
- 40 lyrics and categories: 40 Pts.

Total: 70 Pts

Due= Monday, June 19th