

Blues Rubric

Criteria	A	B	C	D
Length of song / Form	3 verses and chorus in clear form with improvisation section	2 verses and chorus in clear form with improvisation section	1 verse and chorus or unclear form – improv section, verse and or/chorus not structured in 12 bar form	Lacks content length or form is completely disorganized
Theme	Creative theme, all lyrics explore the same theme	Clear and appropriate theme, relatable to students	Theme is somewhat clear, though mixed with other themes or not explored to potential	No theme, not clear or understandable, mixed themes create confusion in listener
12 Bar Blues	12 Bar Blues progression used in appropriate key. Verse is first 8 bars and chorus is last 4 bars.	12 Bar Blues progression used in appropriate key. Verse is first 8 bars and chorus is last 4 bars.	12 Bar Blues progression may be used or is faulty at some point. Verse and chorus may be in inappropriate places.	12 Bar Blues progression not used. Group doesn't play background music appropriate with Blues style or at all.
Melody/Lyrics	Melody well suited to chords in 12 bar blues progression: original melody. Lyrics clever and appropriate to theme, rhyme scheme used	Melody suited to 12 bar blues form (may use existing melody). Lyrics fit with theme, some rhyming and creativity shown	Melody may or may not be suited to 12 bar blues progression. Lyrics may be confusing or abandon theme at times. May lack rhyme scheme	No melody apparent or does not go with 12 bar blues at all. Lyrics confusing or non-existent.
Improvisation	Improvisation sounds like a melody and suits the 12 bar blues progression. 8 – 12 bars are used for improv	Improvisation is melodious in rhythm and notes. Suits 12 bar blues progression most of the time. Clear timing in form - 4-12 bars	Improvisation sounds random, not melodious. Groups seems unclear of how much of the form is used for improvisation section.	No improvisation section included or unclear when it occurs. Improv is completely random if performed, no clear plan of length
Group Work	Value shown to all members of the group and their contributions all of the time. Group calmly discusses options and works through problems. All members seem happy with their role and contribute to the project equally.	Value shown to all members of the group and their contributions most of the time. Group discusses options and works through problems with little intervention. All members seem happy with their role and contribute to the project almost equally.	Value is not always shown the members of the group and to their contributions. Group needs interventions from teacher to discuss options and works through problems. Members take on uneven roles and contribute to the project to varying degrees.	Value rarely shown to the members of the group and their contributions. Group can only work through problems with teacher intervention. Members seem frustrated with each other. Group is unable to continue working together.

