



Recorded Song

Show us your musical talents (or just your enthusiasm) by recording a song about climate change. You choose the type of music. Rap, pop, punk, country...anything goes!

What do you create?

A song with a message about climate change.

How many points can you earn?

500 points (limit 2 songs per school)

How do you earn points?

If you take a video of your song, and upload it onto YouTube as a Video Response to the [Global Debates video](#). If you make an audio recording, upload the music file in the file field of the [Upload form](#).

What You'll Need:

- Any fairly recent PC or Mac computer
- USB microphone or microphone integrated into your computer
- [Audacity](#), audio editing software you can download for free for PC or Mac
- Willing singers!

Step 1: Choose a focus

Focus on a particular idea or aspect of your plan. What message do you want to send? What words and phrases capture what you want to say? Brainstorm with your team. Don't judge yourself; just get those ideas down. Experiment with rhyming lines & phrases.

Step 2: Get Ideas

What are your favorite popular songs? Folk or traditional songs? Identify a song with a powerful message that everyone on your team knows. This could be anything from a national anthem or a modern rock protest song. What makes that song powerful?

Search YouTube for original songs created by other users. Which songs get stuck in your head? Which ones do you forget as soon as they're finished?

Step 3: Write Lyrics & Music

If you play a musical instrument or sing in a choir, you might choose to write your own music. If no one on your team can read or write basic musical notation, however, a good approach might be to create a parody or a new version of an existing song. Clever parodies change the tone and message of the original song in a memorable way.

Use the lists of words, phrases, lines, and rhymes you created in your brainstorming session to write lyrics for your song. A good place to start is the chorus, the set of lines that appear more than once throughout most songs (and get stuck in your head after a song has ended). Try to create a chorus that conveys your climate change message creatively. Then, work to build verses, units of lyrics that work like stanzas of a poem or paragraphs in a book. The best verses tell a story or several stories. What stories can you tell that will end each time in your chorus? Think of the chorus as the punch line your song builds to with each verse.

Step 3: Record your Song

- Browse free music to sample or incorporate into your song ([download legal mp3](#))
- Use the following links to record your song using the free software Audacity:
 - [Rules of Audacity](#)
 - [Setup, Audio import and Playback](#)
 - [Record your song with Audacity](#)



Step 5: Edit Your Song

- [Editing Introduction](#)
- [Cut, Copy and Paste](#)
- [Silence, Duplicate and Split](#)
- [Splitting and Submixes](#)

Step 6: Test Your Song

Play your song to your friends, family, teachers, and others. (If your listeners are singing along by the final chorus, you've created a memorable song!) What could you do better next time?

Step 7: Do It Again!

You can earn points for up to two (2) songs, so don't stop after one! All you need is few new rhymes created from your arguments. Use the feedback you got from your test audience to make your next song even more powerful.

Does your school have a music department? Look for teachers or students with music writing skills. Perhaps your school band could play the soundtrack! Do you know talented musicians? Seek out flute players, piano players, or orchestra members. Do any of your friends play in bands? Ask whether they would help you write and record your song.

Want to learn more? Check out these websites:

- [Creating a simple voice and music with Audacity](#)
- [Audacity tutorial](#) (video)
- [How to use Audacity to record audio](#) (video)
- [How to Edit?](#) (video)
- [Music recording](#) (video)

Get Others Involved