



Weekly Discussion Questions 3/17/2025

[Hanlon, James. "Somewhere Over the Rainbow." *The Spokesman-Review*, 16 Mar. 2025, Pg. A1](#)

Classroom Discussion Questions College Level

The Role of Music in Humanizing Scientific Achievements: The article explores how a musician composed a song for an astronaut. How can artistic expression, particularly music, serve as a bridge between the humanities and sciences? In what ways does this type of collaboration shape public perception of space exploration?

Creative Inspiration and Storytelling: The musician in the story drew from the astronaut's experiences to craft a song. How does personal storytelling influence artistic creation across different mediums? Discuss how firsthand experiences versus secondhand narratives impact authenticity in art and music.

Interdisciplinary Collaboration and Its Broader Implications: This story highlights a unique partnership between music and space exploration. What are the broader implications of interdisciplinary collaborations between the arts and sciences? Can you think of other examples where blending creative and technical fields has led to meaningful innovations or cultural shifts?

Classroom Discussion Questions Grades 9-12

The Intersection of Music and Space Exploration: The article describes how a musician created a song for an astronaut. How can music and storytelling enhance the public's understanding and emotional connection to scientific achievements like space travel?

Inspiration and Artistic Expression: The musician in the article drew inspiration from the astronaut's experiences to craft a song. How do personal stories and unique experiences shape artistic expression? Can you think of other examples where music or art has been influenced by major events or personal journeys?

The Impact of Collaboration: This story highlights a collaboration between two very different fields—music and space exploration. What are some benefits of cross-disciplinary collaborations like this? Can you think of other unlikely partnerships that have led to meaningful or creative outcomes?

Classroom Discussion Questions Grades 6-8

Music and Space: The article talks about a musician writing a song for an astronaut. How do you think music can help people connect with big ideas like space travel?

Finding Inspiration: The musician in the story used the astronaut's experiences to write a song. What kinds of things inspire artists to create music, stories, or artwork? Can you think of a time when something inspired you to create something?

Inspiration Across Fields: The article describes how a musician was inspired by an astronaut's experiences to create a song. How can people from different backgrounds influence each other's work, even if they don't collaborate directly? Can you think of another example where someone's story or achievements inspired a creative work?

Classroom Discussion Questions Grades 1-5

Music and Space: The story is about a musician writing a song for an astronaut. How do you think music can help tell stories about space?

Inspiration: The musician got ideas for the song from the astronaut's adventures. What kinds of things give you ideas to make up songs, stories, or pictures?

Inspiring Each Other: The musician in the story was inspired by the astronaut's journey to write a song. How can someone's story or experiences give us ideas to create something new? Can you think of a time when you were inspired by someone else?