

- "10 most covered songs"
- "jack whites best classic rock cover songs"
- "rolling stones top greatest cover songs"
- "24 greatest cover versions of all time"
- "top ten cover songs that are better than the original"
- "top forty cover songs from the movies"
- "top 21 cover songs that make you realize how amazing the originals were"
- "unexpected cover songs 20 unique renditions of famous tunes"
- "elvis hound dog among best 11 cover songs of all time"
- "20 bob dylan songs deserve a listen"

ASSIGNMENT

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Select your favorite song from among those cited in the *Rolling Stone* list or one of the other lists referenced at the end of this selection. Or, if you prefer, choose a song that is not on any of these lists, but one that has generated at least two notable covers. If you happen to prefer the old standards from "The Great American Songbook," you might even choose another song from the "Stormy Weather" period, such as "As Time Goes By" or "That Old Black Magic." If you like Broadway shows, go to YouTube and try searching, for example, for covers of "If I Were a Rich Man" (from *Fiddler on the Roof*) or "Feeling Good" (from *The Roar of the Greasepaint—The Smell of the Crowd*), particularly the covers by Nina Simone and Muse.

In a few paragraphs, discuss the performance of this song by the original artist. For a model of such a discussion, review Greg Blair's discussion of "Stormy Weather." Draw also upon the terminology discussed by Greg Blair in his glossary to indicate what is happening musically as the song progresses. You may also wish to rewatch one or more of Blair's videos on YouTube. At the end of this section of your paper, draw conclusions about the overall impact of the original song and how it achieves its distinctive mood and voice and its emotional power.

Next, select at least two covers of this song performed by other artists. In the same manner as you described the song performed by the original artist(s), explain how the cover artists reinterpret this song in a way that retains (to some extent) the identity of the original while transmuting it into a different form. Draw comparisons and contrasts, as necessary.

As you work toward a conclusion, discuss which version of the song you like best and/or least, offering reasons for your preferences. How did the musical artist(s)

get it just right for you? How did other versions fall short? In your discussion of the relative merits of these covers, you may want to draw on the observations of Turrentine, who, as you've read, is unafraid to slam covers he finds unimaginative. (If you're not completely satisfied with any of the covers, suggest what you would do differently were you the cover artist.) Finally, what do you conclude about the qualities that make for successful musical covers?

MyWritingLab™ Visit Ch. 8 "Stormy Weather" and the Art of the Musical Cover in MyWritingLab to test your understanding of the chapter objectives.
