

# Chained to the Rhythm Analysis

## Introduction

Katy Perry's song "Chained to the Rhythm" featuring Skip Marley

- "happily numb" society
- music video featuring "Oblivia" a futuristic theme park

## THESIS

- lyrical metaphors
- ironic visual imagery
- organizational emphasis
- all of the above communicate the intended message of a need for greater societal awareness

update thesis to reflect main point of we are not free

## The Sound of Obliviousness

lyrics reinforce idea that the public needs to become socially aware

- which emphasizes we have no freedom

## significant use of metaphors

"Keep sweeping it under the mat" → blindly ignoring societal issues

"so put, your rose colored glasses on and party on" → people refusing to acknowledge/do something about the bad

"So comfortable we're living in a bubble bubble, so comfortable we cannot see the trouble trouble" → privilege can cause people to become unsympathetic to other issues because they do not directly involve them

privilege=world protected or bubble

also add no freedom to concluding sentence

## Let Freedom Ring

title of the song has chains → chains generally reference lack of freedom

irony of this "Oblivia" being in the US the home of the "Free"

also chants "yeah, we think we're free"

line wait time is 1,984 hours → George Orwell's 1984

elaborate on the idea of 1984, talk about how this is main idea of song, and her message

## About the Author

written by Katy Perry, Skip Marley, Sia, Max Martin and Ali Payami

implied author is Perry → she takes responsibility for final product

Perry as a political activist → Twitter bio, LGBTQ rights, Clinton Supporter

Practices "Purposeful pop" → creating and performing music that can be related to relevant topics and motivates listeners to get involved

Check for clarity but otherwise keep content same

irony of creating a theme park (fun) modeled off the nations problems (not fun)

"The Great American Dream Drop" → housing crisis

"Bombs Away" → nuclear war

Cotton candy in shape of mushroom clouds

emphasize how this touches on our lack of freedom

## Welcome to Oblivia

encompasses the notion of a socially unaware population

Perry uses her position as a celebrity to spread awareness

through metaphors in the lyrics → emphasizes importance of being perceptive to issues (regardless if they involve you or not)

Video → visual irony created by paradoxical situations referencing political controversies and freedom

start the conversation

society stuck in blissful ignorance, ignoring major issues and our urgent need for consciousness

discuss how all of the above lead to a message of a public who actually isn't free

## Conclusion