



Revolution



Lyrics to *Revolution* (1968) The Beatles

You say you want a revolution
Well, you know

We all want to change the world
You tell me that it's evolution
Well, you know

We all want to change the world
But when you talk about destruction
Don't you know that you can count me out
Don't you know it's gonna be alright
Alright, alright

You say you got a real solution
Well, you know
We'd all love to see the plan
You ask me for a contribution
Well, you know
We're all doing what we can

But if you want money for people with minds that
hate

All I can tell you is brother you have to wait
Don't you know it's gonna be alright
Alright, alright, al...

You say you'll change the constitution
Well, you know

We all want to change your head
You tell me it's the institution
Well, you know

You'd better free your mind instead
But if you go carrying pictures of Chairman Mao
You ain't going to make it with anyone anyhow
Don't you know it's gonna be alright
Alright, alright

INSTRUCTIONS: Read the following questions and prepare for classroom discussion on this material. This is not a written assignment, but you can make notes for yourself to help answer.

1. How can revolution be evolution?
2. How do people want to change the world? If you could do so, how would you change your life here at Whitney? In the United States? life in the world?
3. Does Revolution have to be destruction? Can political change be quickly and permanently instituted without a bloody revolution?
4. Why to revolutionaries tend to hate?
5. Why do revolutions attack institutions?
6. What is the meaning of the last two lines before the final refrain?
7. Are revolutions mass movements or movements initially begun and sustained by a small group of activists?
8. What is the purpose of the government and the role which the citizens should play on it?
9. Is there any principle or issue for which you would support the government? Explain. Why might you not revolt?
10. Would you be a leader or a follower during a period of revolution? Why?
11. Where does revolutionary leadership come from—what classes or groups in society? Why?
12. On the following spectrum, how far should a revolution be able to progress before it needs to be stopped?
 - Speeches
 - Protests and demonstrations
 - Orderly petitions and lawbreaking
 - Violence and minor destruction of public property
 - Outright defiance of the law, widespread property destruction, and mob scenes
 - Confrontations and injuries to people
 - Wanton killing and destruction