

Grade 6 English Language Arts  
Week of March 8 – March 12

**Lesson 2: Rita Joe and Critical Thinking Essay Paragraph 2**

## National Arts Centre: Rita Joe National Song Project

Inspired by Rita Joe's poem, "I Lost My Talk," and her challenge for indigenous youth to "find their voices, share their stories, and celebrate their talents," Canada's National Arts Centre launched the Rita Joe National Song Project. The project called on youth from five Indigenous communities in Canada to write, record, and create a music video for a song based on Joe's poem. The videos were shared in January, 2016, in Ottawa. Here is one of the songs created by Canadian Indigenous youth - the sound on the video starts at 45 seconds but watch from the beginning:



Gentle Warrior: [https://youtu.be/b7ak2fy\\_Xzk](https://youtu.be/b7ak2fy_Xzk)

If you are interested in seeing some of the other songs created for this national song project, here they are. (Watching some of these is optional!)



Uqausira Asiujiara (Iqaluit - Inuit - Baffin Island, Nunavut): <https://youtu.be/CPFo5Ute6Lc>



Ish'kode (Kitigan Zibi - Anishinaabe - Western Quebec): <https://youtu.be/wBzGrA57rYg>



Nipawik (Edmonton - Métis/Cree): <https://youtu.be/KhHuUni7eY0>

## Critical Thinking Essay Body Paragraph 2

Continue thinking about the statement, "Poetry can change the world."

Write a second body paragraph for your essay based on Rita Joe's poem and the Rita Joe National Song project. In this paragraph, respond to most or all of the following:

- **Topic Sentence:** Start with a topic sentence that indicates that poetry and lyrics have helped change the world for some Indigenous people.
- **Supporting detail and elaborations:** Rita Joe earned Order of Canada award. Explain what that is and why her poetry was thought to have earned it.

- **Supporting detail and elaborations:** Mention the Rita Joe National Song project and how has writing songs with lyrics may have helped the young people in the Indigenous communities that made songs.
- **Concluding sentence:** A clincher sentence the restates the topic sentence in a powerful new way.

Eventually, this paragraph will become part of your five paragraph essay. Your teacher is looking for your ability to analyze evidence, gather information, and make choices for your essay that will help you create an impact on your audience - your teacher, home facilitator, and anyone else you choose to share this body of work with.

You will have a chance to revise and edit this later. This is a first draft of your ideas based on the prompts above. Of course, if you have ideas beyond what is written above, you may expand your response.

### **Critical Thinking Essay - Body Paragraph Two**

Topic sentence: Start with a topic sentence that indicates that poetry and lyrics have helped change the world for some Indigenous people.

Supporting Details and Elaboration: Rita Joe earned Order of Canada award.

Explain what that is and why her poetry was thought to have earned it.

Supporting Details and Elaborations: Mention the Rita Joe National Song project and how has writing songs with lyrics may have helped the young people in the Indigenous communities that made songs.

Concluding sentence: A clincher sentence the restates the topic sentence in a powerful new way.