

Nutritional Impact

Artist:

Song title:

Serving Size: Min:

Sec:

Amount per serving:	Present (X)	Intensity level (1-10)
Unhealthy Relationship Ingredients		
Drama		
Possession/obsession		
Disrespect		
Relationship = sex		
Manipulation		
Total Unhealthy		
Healthy Relationship Ingredients		
Fun/Enjoyable		
Support		
Respect		
Equality		
Trust		
Total Healthy		

The song may portray: **Drama:** a belief that making up/breaking up, yelling, bitter arguing, destroying property or a general sense that unhealthy conflict in the relationship is part of a normal relationship. **Possession/Obsession:** a belief that another person is an object to use for one's personal benefit. This could also include stalking, objectification, and controlling behavior. **Disrespect:** a belief that it is acceptable to disregard another person's feelings, ideas, opinions and wishes. This could include name calling, put downs, minimizing language, and cheating. **Relationship=sex** a belief that the main component or focus of the relationship is sex. **Manipulation:** a belief that it is acceptable to lie or use another person's emotions or vulnerabilities to get what is desired. This could include guilt trips, lying, and using alcohol to get sex. **Fun/Enjoyable:** a belief that relationships are enjoyable and fun. **Support:** a belief that a relationship includes building up the other person's confidence and strengths. This could include encouraging another person to make healthy decisions to better themselves, even when the other person may not totally agree. **Respect:** a belief that another person has value and is appreciated and recognized for their ideas, thoughts, and decisions. This could include the use of positive or supportive words to describe the other person. **Equality:** a belief that both parties share in decision making and are free to choose what is right for them. One person does not have power over the other either in decision making or sex. **Trust:** a belief that the other person in the relationship has your best interest at heart. This could include being faithful and honest.

SOUND RELATIONSHIPS

Music, like food, can feed our brains and give us energy. But, it also can be filled with ingredients that can affect us negatively. Some music may even have an influence on our health and the health of our relationships. This instrument will help you evaluate the "nutritional" value of the music you might listen to. We want you to put on your headphones, turn up the volume and become a song lyrics nutritionist. Just follow these easy steps.

STEP ONE: Find a song

Select a song. Find the lyrics of the song either from the CD insert, or search for them online. Print out the lyrics, and read them to get a feel for the main themes in the song.

STEP TWO: Determine if the song has a relationship theme

Songs with a relationship theme describe an emotional or physical connection between two or more people and should support, celebrate or glorify the unhealthy or healthy characteristics of the relationship.

STEP THREE: Score the song lyrics

Carefully examine the song's title and all lyrics in the chorus and verses of the song. Now look at the **Song Lyric Scoring Label** to the left. Check the "PRESENT" box for each relationship ingredient that you find in the song. The definitions for each relationship ingredient are at the bottom of the label. Finally, for each ingredient that is present in the song, assign it a score from 1-10 in the "INTENSITY LEVEL"

box based on how much of that relationship ingredient you feel is in the song. A score of 1 would indicate that there is a very low level of that relationship ingredient in the song while a score of 10 would indicate a very high level of that relationship ingredient. When assigning an intensity score, consider how those particular lyrics impact the overall message of the song.

STEP FOUR: Total your numbers

Add up the scores from the intensity column in both the unhealthy and healthy sections. These totals indicate the unhealthy and healthy relationship "nutritional" value of the song's lyrics.

STEP FIVE: Balance your "lyrical" diet

Use this tool whenever you want to find out the relationship ingredients of a song. Just like with the food we eat, it is important to have a balanced "song" diet that includes lots of healthy relationship ingredients. Knowing the ingredients will help you make an informed decision about which songs will promote good relationship health.

Prepared by the Boston Public Health Commission. July 2010.
www.bphc.org

Support for this material was provided by a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation as part of *Start Strong: Building Healthy Teen Relationships*.