



***Adele: Homecoming***

**Education Resources from An Ovation Documentary  
*Adele: Homecoming***

**Grade Level – High School**

**Discipline**

- General Music

**Materials for teacher**

Programming clips for an Ovation Documentary

*Adele: Homecoming*

- Education Activities

***Note: It is recommended that teachers view all program clips and discussion points contained in these activities prior to using the resources in class.***

**Standards**

**National Core Arts Standards – Music**

**High School (also suitable for Middle School)**

Activities and resources contained in this document support the areas of:

- Responding
- Connecting

**Overview of Resources**

In the coming months, Ovation features resources and companion program clips based on an Ovation documentary *Adele: Homecoming*.

Students will gain an understanding of a renowned singer-songwriter, career starting points, her inspirations, creations and performances. They will view selected footage from a program and engage in discussions associated with this artist, based on related topics contained in program segments. The program clips include comments and insights about this artist, from music journalists, a radio DJ, and a musician/author.



## ***Adele: Homecoming***

After 5 years since the release of her last album, Adele is back. Fans have applauded her return, by breaking the record for most viewed video in a single day. Through her own words, video and live performance this documentary takes an in-depth look at the life and times of this amazing young artist.

The teacher will inform students they will discuss aspects of Adele's life, career and specific songs. Each programming segment ranges from two to three minutes in length. The documentary provides an account of transitional points in her career as a singer and songwriter.

### **Activities**

2 days, 45 minute classes

### **Supplies for use in Activities**

- computers with Internet access
- White Board, or laptop computer, screen and speakers
- journals in binder format
- Program clips from an Ovation Documentary,  
***Adele: Homecoming***

### **Activity – Day 1**

#### **Class work**

The teacher will show students selected program clips from an Ovation Documentary ***Adele: Homecoming***. Each clip is approximately three minutes in length. The teacher may decide to stream some or all the program clips. After viewing each clip it is suggested that the teacher engage the students in a discussion, utilizing some or all of the discussion points listed below. The teacher will ask students to make notes in their journals about the distinctive musical style of Adele and the talents and personal qualities that make her a renowned singer-songwriter.



## ***Adele: Homecoming***

### **CLIP 1**

#### **DISCUSSION POINTS**

- In this segment, observe and listen as music industry professionals comment on the early years of Adele's arrival in the music world. It's noted here that "Adele's music is relatable." Discuss why you believe that would be a significant defining factor in her music.
- The songs and lyrics in her early albums relate to relationships; what went wrong; and bad relationships. In your opinion, are these effective and "relatable." themes? Expand on your ideas.
- Here it is also noted who Adele's early female mentors were. If you are familiar with these recording artists, cite some traits of their styles and music genres that you believe likely appealed to Adele.

### **CLIP 2**

#### **DISCUSSION POINTS**

- As you follow these opening segments, make note of the style and look of American female vocalists of the rhythm and blues, and jazz era, Etta James and Ella Fitzgerald. In your opinion, do their styles appear similar to each other? Now that Adele has developed her own professional style, in your opinion, how might you relate her to these looks of these legendary vocalists?
- Focus upon the unfolding of Adele's early years as a music artist. In particular, focus on her dedicated routine of listening to Etta James' music on a nightly basis; the recording and publishing of her songs by a friend while in school; and her early connection to the XL Recordings label.
- As you assess these activities, make notes of singular words and descriptions which you believe convey the traits and characteristics of a young Adele as an aspiring music artist. How do you believe these factored in her early years as a distinctive vocalist and songwriter?
- The songs and lyrics in her early albums are emotive, connecting to the themes of relationships, what went wrong, and bad relationships. In your opinion are these effective and "relatable" themes? Expand on your ideas.



### ***Adele: Homecoming***

- Here it is also noted who Adele's early female mentors were. If you are familiar with these recording artists, cite some traits of their music, styles and overall appeal that you believe would have influenced the upcoming Adele.

#### **CLIP 3**

##### **DISCUSSION POINTS**

- In this segment Adele performs. Do you agree or disagree with the comment that it relates a powerful and wistful quality? If so, expand on your opinion.
- What other qualities do you perceive? Does it feel like a relatable performance? If so, or if not, expand on your opinions.
- It is noted that Adele has the ability to expand, adapt, and change. It is further noted that she is able to use outside influences of instruments such as an accordion or a fiddle into her music, but still make it her own. In your opinion, what does this observation connote about Adele's creativity and ingenuity as a musician and a vocalist?
- What, in your opinion must a distinctive music artist possess to be able to embrace the influence of others, yet establish and refine his or her own unique style?

#### **Activity – Day 2**

##### **Class work**

The teacher will show students selected program clips from an Ovation Documentary ***Adele: Homecoming***. Each clip is approximately three minutes in length. The teacher may decide to stream some or all the program clips. After viewing each clip it is suggested that the teacher engage the students in a discussion, utilizing some or all of the discussion points listed below. The teacher will ask students to make notes in their journals about inspirations, ideas, styles, in addition to other related issues highlighted in the program clips.

#### **CLIP 4**

##### **DISCUSSION POINTS**

- Here Adele is singing "Rolling in the Deep." Do you agree or disagree that it is a deep sound...like a blue grass singer? What qualities in particular contribute to this description of her performance?



### ***Adele: Homecoming***

- Describe what other qualities, styles and phrasing you hear and observe in this song and in Adele's performance.
  - Do you perceive an emotional depth in it? If so, expand on this quality.
  - Further, it is described as gritty yet angelic. Discuss these musical terms, and why they might enhance or conflict with the message in the lyrics.
- 
- Here, the relevance of black and white, and sepia hues are generally key elements of Adele's videos. In your opinion, are these effective complements to the nature of her performance, music and lyrics? If so, or if not, explain what you perceive is the significance.

#### **CLIP 5**

#### **DISCUSSION POINTS**

- This segment begins and ends with Adele singing "Someone Like You." Comments are expressed that Adele, in contrast to other leading female singers who incorporate "fireworks," "frothy hair" and elaborate costumes, maintains a style in appearance and her performance that resonates with her image personally.
- Contemplate the meaning of these comments. Cite the names of other world famous female singers who often embrace outrageous and extravagant styles. In your opinion, how does Adele's style distinguish her from others?
- As importantly, in your opinion, how does her physical appearance, dress, hair, make-up play a role in relating music and the message of the lyrics she sings?
- It's noted here that Adele's voice was "haunting." Do you observe that quality in her performance? If so, be specific in your perceived connection to "haunting." Is it effective? If so, or if not, be specific in your feedback.
- As you contemplate a list of qualities to ascribe to Adele's career at this point in her artistic journey, make a list of singular words which you believe relate her style, tone and range.
- Imagine you are asked to relate who you believe is the "Real Adele" through social media messages. Here you observe Adele's performance of "Someone Like You" at the BRIT Awards. In two sentences, relate what and how you would depict her performance and describe in-depth its emotional impact on you.



***Adele: Homecoming***

**####**

**Assessment for these activities, to be determined by the teacher**