



SOUNDTRACK *for* SUCCESS

Fight Songs for the ambitious set.
By Josh Messer



What does it take to be successful?

Undoubtedly it requires hard work, perseverance, a strong will and a positive attitude. Yes, those things, conventional wisdom tells us, constitute a veritable recipe for success.

But have those sagacious elders who pass down such wisdoms ever considered the role that music plays in achieving success?

Certainly the art form that has inspired us from the very dawn of our existence – inspired us to fight, to laugh, to love, to mourn and, in recent decades, to go out and get a really bad haircut – has some bearing on the success of an individual.

In this brave new world, where iPods are pretty much standard gear, and fresh new

music can be at one's fingertips quicker than you can say iTunes, it's easy enough for anyone to put together their own Soundtrack for Success. Think "fight songs" for the young professional – those songs that boost adrenaline, stir confidence, energize and inspire the spirit.



Rage Against the Machine

Take the newest and youngest VP at the local bank for example. He may look a little funny at the traffic light, head-banging like mad in his Lexus – rocking out to Rage Against the Machine's "Bulls On Parade" – all while wearing a \$500 suit, but that's what gets him pumped as he drives to the weekly officers' meeting to make a presentation.

And he doesn't have to agree with the anti-establishment message in Zack de la Rocha's lyrics to be driven by the rhythm Brad Wilks pounds out on the drums, or to be blown away by Tom Morello's screeching guitar licks. It's the rush he gets from the music that matters. That's what gives him the fire he needs to go into the meeting and give a wicked-good presentation.



Or take the recent graduate from law school, up at 6 a.m. and out jogging before most people have had their first cup of coffee. As she strides through the neighborhood, fists pumping to the beat of "Survivor" by Destiny's Child, she thinks about the big interview she finally got scheduled at the firm that happens to be her first pick.

A graduate of UGA, she even has the Georgia Fight Song on her "morning jog" playlist. On the drive to the interview, she'll be jamming to "Put On" by Young Jeezy – one of her favorites. Just flying high on the spell-binding magic of music. And she'll do more than impress at that interview. Oh yes, she'll exude confidence, competence and grit. She will get the job.



Destiny's Child