

Setting: It was a bright and sunny day on Rodeo Drive California and Carson was walking with a few of his friends and doing some shopping. They were listening to some of Ariana Grande's music and enjoying their time. They went shopping all over the place and when they turned the corner of the Louis Vuitton store, they wouldn't believe who they saw.

Carson: Umm... guys, is that Ariana Grande?

Friends: Yes! Yes, it is!

Carson: Ariana could I talk to you for a bit? I want to discuss the allegations that have been made about you stealing samples for your "7 Rings" song and all the appropriation of it. I won't be too long.

Ariana: Yeh sure no problem. Back off guys it's ok. So, what's your name kid?

Carson: My name is Carson. It's so nice to meet you. So, I believe that your "7 Rings" song has a lot of appropriation in it and it seems a little shady. Do you know what appropriation is?

Ariana: Well yes, I do know what appropriation is. Everyone does it. But why do you think my song is the worst ones done? I mean I used a few samples from artists and made my own song and see how popular it is. I mean like come on.

Carson: Yes, I get that everyone appropriates something in their career, but how long did it take for you to pay the royalties for the samples? I know there was a huge court case about this song and the appropriation of someone else's work. You ripped off Julie Andrews' song from "The Sound of Music" and I think you used this catchy tune to get ahold of the listeners' attention faster, since it is so well known. (Ahlgrim, "Ariana Grande Gets").

Ariana: Well it did take some amount of time. Court cases always take a while. But, did you see how much I had to pay in royalties? 90% is a lot of money that I don't get from this very popular song. I paid Rodgers, Hammerstein, and Concord so everything should be fine now. (Ahlgrim, "Ariana Grande Gets").

Carson: Wow that is a lot. But, I'm glad that you're giving credit to everyone. But there still are a few people like Soulja Boy, 2 Chainz, and Princess Nokia (Molanphy). Did you give them any credit for using parts of their music? All of them complained about you "stealing the triplets-with-pauses cadence of their hits—2010's "Pretty Boy Swag," 2011's "Spend It," and 2016's "Mine,"" (Molanphy).

Ariana: No, I never did. There wasn't a lawsuit at hand and in copyright there is some grey room when it comes to the lyrical cadence and rhythm in songs (Molanphy). But, why do you care? Do you like the song at all?

Carson: No, I do like the song a lot. I just don't think it's right to not give them credit. Even if you didn't mean to use their rhythms and cadences. Like there is some really good proof that

these cadences were used (VultureVid). Like look at this video that compares Soulja Boy, 2 Chainz, and Princess Nokia's songs to your "7 Rings" song (VultureVid).

Carson and Ariana watch the VultureVid video together (VultureVid).

Ariana: Yeh I can see how there is some anger from them. And gosh I've heard a lot more about the song than just some lyrics and cadences being used.

Carson: Oh yeah, I have heard you got a lot of backlash for the whole racial appropriation of buying weaves and hair (Ahlgrim, "Ariana Grande Apologized"). Like I'm a little torn on the issue and I've seen how it's affected you. So many people tweet about this issue and it seems like you resolved it nicely.

Ariana: Yes, I did. I went on social media and apologized for any misunderstanding or hurtful assumptions made by my song. "It's never my intention to offend anybody" (Ahlgrim, "Ariana Grande Apologized"). I think I've learned my lesson when it comes to that type of appropriation.

Carson: Yes. Hopefully that apology was enough. Sometimes having to apologize after the fact is harder than just giving them credit in the first place. But there is a lot to take away from this song and the creation of it. And I hope that peace can be found with you and Soulja Boy, 2 Chainz, and Princess Nokia. It sucks that Copyright has so much grey area in it and I hope they can resolve these issues (Molanphy).

Ariana: Yes, I agree. In the music industry there is so much appropriation and everyone feeds off each other. It's truly hard to be original without a lot of hard work and commitment. I try my best to give my audience what they want and to be original along the way.

Carson: That's awesome Ariana. Well, I want to thank you so much for letting me pick your brain a bit and argue some topics. It's great to know that you're working from it. Thanks again and I can't wait for the new album.

Ariana: Oh gosh no problem. It was awesome talking to you.

Carson: Oh, and can we get a picture?

Ariana: Yes, for sure.

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