

John Mellencamp Quotes

*People, Song, Thinking, Guy, Records, Years, Friendship, Writing, Long, Men,
Rocks, Want, Country, Hands, Running, Fighting, Hurt, Art, Sometimes, Fall*

It's my responsibility as a singer-songwriter to report the news.

~John Mellencamp

A lot of Woody Guthrie's songs were taken from other songs. He would rework the melody and lyrics, and all of a sudden it was a Woody Guthrie song.

~John Mellencamp

What is there to be afraid of? The worst thing that can happen is you fail. So what? I failed at a lot of things. My first record was horrible.

~John Mellencamp

Grandma's on the front porch with a Bible in her hand, sometimes I hear her singing take me to the promised land.

~John Mellencamp

It's what you do and not what you say. If you're not part of the future, then get out of the way!

~John Mellencamp

Unemployment is sky-rocketing; deflation is in our future for the first time since the Great Depression. I don't care whose fault it is, it's the truth.

~John Mellencamp

Growing up leads to growing old and then to dying And dying to me don't sound like all that much fun

~John Mellencamp

There is nothing more sad or glorious than generations changing hands.

~John Mellencamp

Natalie from the Dixie Chicks could have said what she said before

9-11 and no one would have cared.

~John Mellencamp

Ain't that America, home of the free? Little pink houses for you and me.

~John Mellencamp

An honest man's pillow is his peace of mind.

~John Mellencamp

When you live in hysteria, people start thinking emotionally.

~John Mellencamp

Most people in life, give up too early.

~John Mellencamp

My voice has gotten better from smoking.

~John Mellencamp

I have a bunch of information in my head that I'm not afraid to put in song or onto a canvas. Into any conversation.

~John Mellencamp

I do things my way and I pay a high price.

~John Mellencamp

Be careful of those who kill in Jesus' name; he don't believe in killing at all.

~John Mellencamp

Grace, Mercy and Forgiveness will help a man walk tall. Walk tall!

~John Mellencamp

I enjoy the pleasure of my own company.

~John Mellencamp

What we do to each other are the worst things that we do.

~John Mellencamp

I want you to dance naked, if you like, I'll join you.

~John Mellencamp

Music actually meant something when I started doing it. Too bad I wasn't mature enough to write anything that meant anything.

~John Mellencamp

I'm trying to write for people my age. And my inspiration over the years has changed dramatically.

~John Mellencamp

Some people say I'm obnoxious and lazy, that I'm uneducated, that my opinion means nothing, but I know I'm a real good dancer.

~John Mellencamp

Now I do have a choice, and I'm not going to do anything I don't want to do.

~John Mellencamp

I don't want to be a politician. I don't like politics. It's petty; it fights dirty.

~John Mellencamp

I'm your average Joe guy. I don't really care for politicians.

~John Mellencamp

they say life goes on long after the thrill of living

~John Mellencamp

People in Indiana have known me for 25 years. They've known George Bush four.

~John Mellencamp

I don't have to worry about any pop sensibility. I can write adult songs, and I don't have to worry about choruses and hook lines.

~John Mellencamp

Don't ever lose that innocent laughter, don't let time take that away

~John Mellencamp

When politicians use fear, they are playing into the enemy's hand.

~John Mellencamp

Sometimes love don't feel like it should, you make it hurt so good.

~John Mellencamp

I know there's a balance, I see it when I swing past.

~John Mellencamp

We could walk 3 minutes and be on the beach. I think the music kind of suffered because of it. It kind of smelled like Jimmy Buffett, which is a bad thing.

~John Mellencamp

This is not a rock opera. This is not Tommy. I can write songs that emote, and that's it.

~John Mellencamp

Bob Dylan's first couple of records in the 60's weren't considered cover records, but he only wrote one or two original songs on each album.

~John Mellencamp

I think the Internet is the most dangerous thing invented since the atomic bomb.

~John Mellencamp

A lot of record company people, even though they're our age, want to

be perceived as young hip guys, and they're hurting the business.

~John Mellencamp

I couldn't have recorded this record 15 years ago. My voice didn't have the depth to pull these songs off.

~John Mellencamp

If fans are going to turn on me because of this, they weren't my fans anyway. I couldn't betray a whole 25 years of record making and not do this. I had to.

~John Mellencamp

I'm wide open and will entertain anything anybody has to say, but if it's MTV and radio, well, they're great things, but can't be the only thing. I don't know that it would work even for the Beatles.

~John Mellencamp

I'm the guy who wrote The Authority Song. Did they think I was kidding? Did they think it was only a song to entertain?

~John Mellencamp

You know, it's cigarettes that killed Jerry Garcia. Everyone thinks it's heroin, but it wasn't. It was cigarettes.

~John Mellencamp

I thought I knew a lot about music. Then you start digging and the deeper you go, the more there is.

~John Mellencamp

To say that we're doomed is just an obvious remark.

~John Mellencamp

Do I think it's OK to fight authority as long as you're only talking about the high school teacher? No.

~John Mellencamp

When you live life for yourself it's hard on everyone. And that hasn't changed. For me, if anything, it's gotten worse.

~John Mellencamp

I think it's ridiculous to try to sell records to teenagers, because teenagers don't buy my records. And there ain't that many teenagers out there in the marketplace.

~John Mellencamp

When people are afraid, they make emotional decisions.

~John Mellencamp

The simple man, baby, pays for the thrills, the bills, and the pills that kill.

~John Mellencamp

I'm using my art to comment on what I see. You don't have to agree with it.

~John Mellencamp

I would never say John Kerry would be a great president. I will say that George Bush has divided us; he has filled this country with hatred.

~John Mellencamp

I need a lover that won't drive me crazy, someone that knows the meaning of hey, hit the highway.

~John Mellencamp

It's a lonely ol' night. Can I put my arms around you?

~John Mellencamp

Future generations, riding on the highways that we built, I hope they

have a better understanding.

~John Mellencamp

She chased after her dream with much desire, but when she got to close to her expectations, well the dream burned up like paper in fire.

~John Mellencamp

Hold on to 16 as long as you can.

~John Mellencamp

People have the right to say what they want to.

~John Mellencamp

All I'm doing is painting. It's my hobby. And that's that.

~John Mellencamp

All my friends are so small town.

~John Mellencamp

I went to New York in 1974, to either try to get a record deal, get into the New York Art Student League, or be a dancer. So that was my plan. Some plan. And I had no money.

~John Mellencamp

I've just been fortunate to have had a lot of hit records, though Human Wheels doesn't qualify as a hit record-but it's really the best single I've ever had.

~John Mellencamp

I look at some of my contemporaries trying to emulate what they were 30 years ago and just because of the age factor alone, they look silly.

~John Mellencamp

I want to sell to people my own age, because that's the way I write

songs.

~John Mellencamp

Nobody wants to make great albums now because nobody wants to buy them and there's no place to sell them.

~John Mellencamp

Check it out, forgot to say hello to my neighbors. Check it out, sometimes I question my own behavior.

~John Mellencamp

I just think if the song's good, sing it. I don't care who's doing it. I don't care if it's a country act. I don't care if it's a rock act. If the song's good, sing it.

~John Mellencamp

Now more than ever the world needs love, not just a slogan.

~John Mellencamp

All I can do is repeat what I think is the best information that anybody ever gave me.

~John Mellencamp

I'm looking for trouble. A lot of people get to be a certain age and they just kind of lose interest or they give up. But I'm looking for trouble.

~John Mellencamp

There's a young man in a T-shirt listening to a rock and roll station. He's got greasy hair, greasy smile, he says, Lord this must be my destination.

~John Mellencamp

I fight authority and authority always wins.

~John Mellencamp

Mama, why do I always fall for the crazy ones?

~John Mellencamp

Go to work and be a Hollywood stud, drive your four wheel drive right into the mud.

~John Mellencamp

This is serious business, sex, violence, and rock and roll.

~John Mellencamp

In so many musicals today, the story is moved forward by a song. I don't think we're gonna try to do that.

~John Mellencamp

Want me to spend the night? Hey lover boy, you know I will, and my best girlfriend lives down the road, together we will thrill you.

~John Mellencamp

The dust to which this flesh shall return, it is the ancient dreaming dust of God.

~John Mellencamp

You shouldn't even be in a band if you can't play Buddy Holly's Not Fade Away.

~John Mellencamp

She said she wasn't afraid of Satan, in fact, she thought he was a joke. She said she'd tear his tail off and run her fist down his throat.

~John Mellencamp

Nobody heard anything ahead of time.

~John Mellencamp

I'm not a nostalgic person. I'm not nostalgic about much of anything.

~John Mellencamp

The Internet is the wrong direction for music.

~John Mellencamp

The reason I said the Internet is dangerous is that a couple smart guys could hack into a computer and shut down the Eastern seaboard if they wanted to. It's a terrible, out-of-control thing.

~John Mellencamp

Turning music into digital was just a con, a record-company con.

~John Mellencamp

All the women in the world want a phony rock star who plays guitar.

~John Mellencamp

With no bottom line, it's hard to know wrong from right. But I ain't ever satisfied.

~John Mellencamp

For me or a Bruce Springsteen to sit up in our ivory towers and make comments about racism, well, were not really in it, are we?

~John Mellencamp

Dear Mr. President, can I ask you a question, when the bombs fall down will they hurt everyone in my family?

~John Mellencamp

This is about black people selling out other black people.

~John Mellencamp

You have to reinvent yourself.

~John Mellencamp

Back in the '80s and '90s, when there was still a record business, there was pressure on anyone who was fortunate to have a few hits on a major label to continue that success.

~John Mellencamp

My thought was I should try to stick with names that people may recognize like Robert Johnson, Son House, and Hoagy Carmichael, so if somebody cared to research, they would find a wealth of material.

~John Mellencamp

What's the difference? One guy's the same as the other.

~John Mellencamp

His frustration running very high, he takes it out on the ones he loves because it's safe.

~John Mellencamp

Rock'n'roll starts between the legs and goes through the heart, then to the head. As long as it does those three things, it's a great rock song.

~John Mellencamp

You can't tell your best buddy that you love him.

~John Mellencamp

Give me someone I can look up to, show me someone I can love.

~John Mellencamp

We have been lied to and terrorized by our own government, and it is time to take action.

~John Mellencamp

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