

# I'm just a student sir.....

... And I only want to learn  
But it's hard to read through the rising smoke  
Of the books you'd like to burn.  
So I'd like to make a promise  
And I'd like to make a vow  
And when I've got something to say  
I'm going to say it now.

Well you've given me a number  
And you've taken off my name  
And to get around this campus  
Well you almost need a plane  
And you're supporting Chiang Kai Chek  
And I'm supporting Mao  
And when I've got something to say, sir  
I'm going to say it now.

I wish that you'd make your mind up  
I wish that you'd decide  
That I should live as freely  
As those who live outside,  
'Cause we also are entitled  
To the rights to be endowed.  
When I've got something to say, sir  
I'm going to say it now.

Well I've read of other countries  
Where the students take a stand  
They've even helped to overthrow  
The leaders of the land.  
Now I wouldn't go so far to say  
We're also learning how  
But when we've got something to say, sir  
We're going to say it now.

And things, they might be different  
If I were here alone  
But I've got a friend or two  
Who no longer lives at home  
And we'll respect our elders  
Just as long as they allow  
That when I've got something to say, sir  
I'm going to say it now.

So keep right on a talking  
And tell us what to do,  
And if nobody listens  
My apologies to you.  
And I know that you were younger once  
But sure are older now  
And when I've got something to say, sir  
I'm going to say it now.

—Phil Ochs