Cultural Studies

In New Orleans, a second line takes its name from people who follow the band and the featured participants in a procession. The same spiritual can accompany gatherings with very different purposes.

Three occasions At a jazz funeral, a band accompanies mourners and may play “The Saints” after the burial. At a club anniversary parade, members celebrate their organization and neighbors fall in behind them. At a wedding second line, the newlyweds and wedding party take their places up front and guests follow.

Read about New Orleans second lines · Read Armstrong’s family recollections

Compare Make one row per occasion. Record who is honored, who follows, and what the gathering marks. Choose two rows and explain how the meaning of walking or dancing to the same tune might change for the participants.