The song was released in 2018. For this Childish Gambino song, “This is America” I suggest watching the music video while reading the lyrics. This video is very hard to watch in many ways, so if you are sensitive to violence do not watch it. However, it is important to understanding the full message and what is going on in the United States. You will find more messages in the video than in the lyrics themselves.

This website is also helpful for discovering the meanings of lyrics if you are having trouble (https://genius.com/Childish-gambino-this-is-america-lyrics) The words are linked to the website as well, so you can click on them anywhere below.

Here is the music video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VYOjWNs4cMY

If you have free time, I suggest watching this video that describes the hidden meanings behind the music video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9_LIP7qguYw

[Intro: Choir]
Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah
Yeah, yeah, yeah, go, go away
Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah
Yeah, yeah, yeah, go, go away
Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah
Yeah, yeah, yeah, go, go away
Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah
Yeah, yeah, yeah, go, go away

[Bridge: Childish Gambino & Young Thug] We just wanna party
Party just for you
We just want the money
Money just for you (Yeah)
I know you wanna party
Party just for free
Girl, you got me dancin' (Girl, you got me dancin')
Dance and shake the frame (Yeah)
We just wanna party (Yeah)
Party just for you (Yeah)
We just want the money (Yeah)
Money just for you (You)
I know you wanna party (Yeah)
Party just for free (Yeah)
Girl, you got me dancin' (Girl, you got me dancin', yeah) Dance and shake the frame (Ooh)

[Chorus: Childish Gambino]
This is America
Don't catch you slippin' now
Don't catch you slippin' now
Look what I'm whippin' now
This is America (Woo)
Don't catch you slippin' now
Don't catch you slippin' now
Look what I'm whippin' now

[Verse 1: Childish Gambino, Young Thug, Blocboy JB & 21 Savage]
This is America (Skrtt, skrtr, woo)
Don't catch you slippin' now (Ayy)
Look how I'm livin' now
Police be trippin' now (Woo)
Yeah, this is America (Woo, ayy)
Guns in my area (Word, my area)
I got the strap (Ayy, ayy)
I gotta carry 'em
Yeah, yeah, I'ma go into this (Ugh)
Yeah, yeah, this is guerilla (Woo)
Yeah, yeah, I'ma go get the bag
Yeah, yeah, or I'ma get the pad
Yeah, yeah, I'm so cold like, yeah (Yeah)
I'm so dope like, yeah (Woo)
We gon' blow like, yeah (Straight up, uh)
[Refrain: Choir & Childish Gambino]
Ooh-ooh-ooh-ooh-ooh, tell somebody
You go tell somebody
Grandma told me
Get your money, Black man (Get your— Black man)
Get your money, Black man (Get your— Black man)
Get your money, Black man (Get your— Black man)
Get your money, Black man (Get your— Black man)
Black man

[Chorus: Childish Gambino, Young Thug, Slim Jxmmi & Quavo]
This is America (Woo, ayy)
Don't catch you slippin' now (Woo, woo, don't catch you slippin' now)
Don't catch you slippin' now (Ayy, woah)
Look what I'm whippin' now (Slime!)
This is America (Yeah, yeah)
Don't catch you slippin' now (Woah, ayy)
Don't catch you slippin' now (Ayy, woo)
Look what I'm whippin' now (Ayy)

[Verse 2: Childish Gambino, Quavo, Young Thug, 21 Savage & BlocBoy JB]
Look how I'm geekin' out (Hey)
I'm so fitted (I'm so fitted, woo)
I'm on Gucci (I'm on Gucci)
I’m so pretty (Yeah, yeah, woo)
I’m gon' get it (Ayy, I'm gon' get it)
Watch me move (Blaow)
This a celly (Ha)
That's a tool (Yeah)
On my Kodak (Woo) Black
Ooh, know that (Yeah, know that, hold on)
Get it (Woo, get it, get it)
Ooh, work it (21)
Hunnid bands, hunnid bands, hunnid bands (Hunnid bands)
Contraband, contraband, contraband (Contraband)
I got the plug in Oaxaca (Woah)
They gonna find you like "blocka" (Blaow)

[Refrain: Choir, Childish Gambino, & Young Thug]
Ooh-ooh-ooh-ooh-ooh, tell somebody
America, I just checked my following list, and
You go tell somebody
You motherfuckas owe me
Grandma told me
Get your money, Black man (Black man)
Get your money, Black man (Black man)
Get your money, Black man (Black man)
Get your money, Black man (Black man)
Black man
(1, 2, 3—get down)
Ooh-ooh-ooh-ooh-ooh, tell somebody
You go tell somebody
Grandma told me, "Get your money"
Get your money, Black man (Black man)
Get your money, Black man (Black man)
Get your money, Black man (Black man)
Get your money, Black man (Black man)
Black man

[Outro: Young Thug]
You just a black man in this world
You just a barcode, ayy
You just a black man in this world
Drivin' expensive foreigns, ayy
You just a big dawg, yeah
I kenneled him in the backyard
No, probably ain't life to a dog
For a big dog

Reflection Questions:

1. Being in a country where guns are not allowed in the public’s hands, how do you feel about guns being legal to buy for nearly any citizen over the age of 18 in the U.S.?
2. Is the artist effective in communicating the level of violence against black people in the United States?