

Assignment 9: Creative Lab

This course also embraces a learning-by-doing mode. The best way to know something is to do it, the same for Hip-Hop. From week 5, until your last section in week 10, you will have ample time to design, experiment, and play with your own craft. We provide two types of creative projects:

- **Beat-making:** If you are a musical/technological person and want to explore Hip-Hop production, you can make your own beat! Some of the TAs are professional in beat-making, so feel free to reach out to your TA if needed. Thanks to my incredible TAs and colleagues, we gathered some resources here for your reference:
 - [Marlow Digs](#): incredible boom-bap producer. Lots of videos on how to approach beatmaking on different platforms (computer, hardware, etc.)
 - [Ocean](#): this guy is I think more into trap/drill, and his videos are really good on the step-by-step of doing beats.
 - [You suck at producing](#): not particularly rap oriented, but useful on how to use Ableton and basics on drums/melodies/etc.
 - [Timbaland masterclass series](#): professional beat-making course, not free though :|
 - [Roland 50 Studio](#): an introductory free and online approach to beat programming through digital models of analog machines. Easy to use and web-based. Great source for experiments but not so flexible as DAWs.
- **Rap:** You are encouraged to write your own rhymes! By constructing the flow, experimenting with wordplay, and thinking about punchline, your understanding of the art of emcee will be remarkably enhanced! We encourage you to start early and think about your rhyme while we introduce the lyrical and content tools, and try to understand these concepts by applying them. For the resources, please refer to Module 6.
 - You can use the languages you are more comfortable with other than English. When you submit the work, you need to supply an explanatory document notating your design of the flow, including the rhymes and wordplay, and also the meaning of your lyrics.
 - Write your own words. Don't bite other people's rhymes. Stealing rhymes is a taboo in rap. It's okay to be imaginative but it's better to keep it real. Talk about something in your life, what you saw, and how you feel will be so cool. The

lyrical content is not required to be clean, but it has to be Hip-Hop and clever (with rhymes, wordplay, punchlines, and fun).

- If you don't identify yourself as a rapper, it's also okay to write a poem with clever wordplay and rhymes. The literary concepts are similar, and you don't need to present them as rap.

Although everyone is only required to choose one out of the two projects, you can do both and create as many crafts as you want! You can share your work in the week 10 section if your TA organizes it. You can always send your work through the self-recommend work channel for the instructor to view.