



Hip-Hop in Context

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The Benefits and Detriments of Hip Hop

Does Hip-Hop bring anything good to society?

Absolutely!

- Carries a message that can be heard by many
- Brought about new ways of expression
- Delivered social change and improvement
- Encourages others to follow suit



Messages and Social Change in Hip-Hop

- Messages
 - Artists can craft a meaningful yet pleasing narrative
 - They realized the potential for this during the beginning of Hip-Hop
 - Hip-Hop messages can become widespread due to the musical nature
 - *The Message*
 - NY lifestyle and struggle for the Five
- Social Change
 - Nipsey Hussle
 - Started local businesses for his community
 - Inspired other rappers and people with influence to follow



Does Hip-Hop bring anything bad to society?

- Encourages others to continue to pursue harm
 - Drugs
 - Violence
 - Crime
- Brings out a desire in listeners to follow that rapper's harm
- Fosters petty fights (beefs) between artists and people
 - Inspires rappers to one-up each other
 - Doesn't do any good for anyone



Concerns about the Future of Hip-Hop

- Continued encouragement of bad habits and downfalls
 - More fans can be drawn into drugs or violence
 - Example: Juice WRLD and Future
- People dying over the genre through gang violence
 - Example: OG ManMan
 - Keeps the cycle going
- More rap beefs starting for clout and fame
 - Seeing the fans come to artists over arguments
 - Thinks it will help further their career
 - In the end, doesn't do much at all



Hip Hop in Literature Education



The Need

- Current disconnect between students and education
 - Especially literature education
 - Unmet needs of growing student diversity
 - Inaccessibility of relevance within canonical literature
- Hip Hop can bridge gap and raise student interest in their own education and field of literature



Diversity

- Student diversity on rise while diversity of teachers shrinks
- Hip Hop has strong influence on culture
 - Regardless of race, socioeconomics, etc.
 - Particularly for young people
- Teachers asked to teach students of unfamiliar background and culture
- Leads to lowered interest in education, especially in minority students
- Canonical literature is lacking in diversity
- Hip Hop can address these problems
- Also beneficial to non minority students



Inaccessibility of Relevance in Canonical Lit

- Most literature studies focus on old pieces with inaccessible language and ideas
- Hip Hop would provide some balance to age of pieces studied
- Introduce students to skills necessary to unlock relevance in canon
- Hip Hop influential to culture today
- Its relevance would make it a bridge between student interest and education



When and How to Incorporate

- During discussions of literacy
- To teach for and validate student identities, experiences, and opinions
- Use Hip Hop as its own form of literature, not as a bridge to canonical literature

Hip Hop and Mental Health



Importance

- Suicide rates increased in 2020 alone
- African American youth are at the most high risk
- De-stigmatize
- Directly help through music therapy



De-stigmatization

- Mac Miller
- Kendrick Lamar
- Juice Wrld



Community Impact

- Sense of empowerment, street smarts, resilience, self-healing
- Problem solving, self-esteem, interpersonal relations
- Being used as a form of music therapy

Discussion