**Researching Hip-hop Culture**

In this second project of the course, you are invited to learn and research about how literacy is practiced in hip-hop culture. In other words, you are given an opportunity to learn about a variety of Hip-hop literacies. As we have seen in our discussions and readings, Hip-hop is more than just rap music. It is a culture with particular practices, and comprised of participating members who give it identity as a cultural community. Hip-hop artists engage in variety of literacy practices that contribute in creating knowledge that is not just consumed by hip-hop fans and entrepreneurs, but also by teachers and scholars in diverse fields like education, anthropology, philosophy, English, linguistics, sociology, music and more. In this assignment you are will research and learn more about this rich and rapidly growing youth culture.

**Process**

Your will begin by identifying a hip-hop artifact—an object, a practice, a text, a product or experience associated with hip-hop. You will then consider what it reveals about the values and practices of Hip-hop culture. Unlike other research papers you may have written in which you begin by taking a position and then looking for evidence to support your position, in this assignment you’ll begin by carefully observing something, asking questions about its uses, meaning, and value, and then working your way to a conclusion about the thing’s significance for understanding how literacy is used and/or valued within hip-hop culture. As you research and write about this, you should see yourself as contributing to knowledge building in the now growing body of Hip-hop scholarship by enhancing other people’s understanding of the practices and values of Hip-hop.

**Learning Goals of the assignment:**

***Main goals***

* To invite you to inquire into cultural values and/or practices of literacy within hip-hop culture by choosing an everyday hip-hop thing as the focus of your inquiry;
* To give you practice in processes of inquiry: forming and asking questions, revising questions, and seeking answers,

***Sub-goals***

* Expand your understanding of hip-hop as culture
* Begin to see hip-hop as a site of knowledge production
* Contribute to knowledge creation/building within Hip-hop scholarship
* Begin learning the role and application of hip-hop in diverse fields
* Use Hip-hop as a tool for critical language learning and awareness

**Rhetorical Purpose of the assignment:**

To demonstrate the significance of an everyday hip-hop item for understanding the larger patterns of cultural values or practices in relation to Hip-hop literacies. Your reader should come away from your essay having learned a new way to look at taken-for-granted Hip-hop cultural values/practices from your analysis of the artifact you’ve chosen as a focal point for your analysis. You will come up your own purpose, and define your audience for your paper.

**Texts to be used for research**

\*One of your sources for your research must be a scholarly article read in class. You will supplement this with at least two of the following hip-hop texts or sources.

Hip-hop lyrics

Hip-hop documentaries

Interviews of hip-hop artists (You-tube videos, films)

Hip-hop websites (e.g Hip-hop Archive, lyrics.com)

Live performances

Graffiti art

Hip-hop fashion

Any other hip-hop related material

**Other Guidelines**

Use MLA format

Pages 4-5 pages

Cover letter-Reflection of your writing process using RAIDS