

## Drake (Aubrey Drake Graham) Biographical Essay

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Ancient civilizations have been using music to express our emotions in a form of communication rather than speaking. While the styles of music evolve over time the five elements are always apparent: Melody, Harmony Rhythm, Form, and Expression. From the Baroque age to the romantic age, influential composers such as Beethoven have been capturing the minds of millions for generations becoming celebrities of their time. Since the 20th century, the United States started their own music styles starting with jazz. Later in the century, one of the greatest styles of music became mainstream: hip hop. Hip hop emerged as one of the greatest genres of music today originating from the West Bronx. Since the 80s tons of artists emerged using the same musical styles and adding their own twist to them. The musical styles consisted of rhythmic vocal styling, up-tempo beats, and poem - like lyrics.

In the early 21st century, one of the greatest rappers made his start following a brief career as an actor. Aubrey Drake Graham, better known as Drake, is hands-down one of the greatest rappers to date. Since releasing his first mixtape in 2006 titled "Room for Improvement" and sold 6,000 CD copies! Similarly to other mainstream rappers of our generation, Drake signed huge labels to produce music for a wide range of fans. Drake

is most notably known in 2019 as a global ambassador for the Toronto Raptors when they defeated the Golden State Warriors to clinch their first NBA title. Above all, Drake's style of music gave way for rappers in the future. His ability to use poemlike lyrics with a techno beat has evolved the hip hop industry.

The life of one of the most influential Hip Hop artists began on October 24th, 1986. Aubrey Graham was born in Toronto, Canada. His parents were Dennis Graham and Sandra Graham. Around the time of Drake's birth his father worked as a drummer and performed alongside another famous country musician, Jerry Lee Lewis. Sandra Graham, on the other hand, worked as an English Teacher as well as a florist. Drake's parents first met when Sandra was in attendance at the Bluenote Club in Toronto where Dennis Graham was performing.

Unfortunately things started falling apart between Drake's parents and they divorced when Drake was 5 (1991ish). Drake and his mother remained in Toronto, Canada while Dennis Graham went to Memphis, Tennessee where he was arrested and put in prison on multiple drug related charges. Due to many money constraints as well as several more criminal charges, it was very difficult for Dennis Graham to reunite with

Drake until he got older. Before Drake was introduced to the music industry, he was always interested in the arts of acting. He attended two prestigious high schools which specialize in acting. Due to the fact that he was getting bullied and his classes were severely impacting his acting career, Drake dropped out of school, only to graduate in December of 2012. During his high school years, Drake was introduced to his future acting agent from a friend which later helped him land a role on a popular Canadian TV Show, *Degrassi: The Next Generation*. He would later star as the main character, Jimmy Brooks, for 7 seasons.

2006 was really, the official start of Drake's music career. Following inspirations from Jay-Z and music duo *Clique*, Drake released his first mixtape titled *Room For Improvement* when Drake was only 20 years old. This was pretty significant because it became a kickstarter for drakes rapping career. It was for sale only rather than listening on the internet and sold over 6,000 copies. Following his inaugural release, Drake released two more mixtapes titled *Comeback Season* and *So Far Gone*.

It was around this time when Drake was attracting the likes of many mainstream rappers of the 2000s such as Lil Wayne, Lloyd and Bun B. There was a major controversy surrounding Drake's initial signing with a

label company due to an illegal release of an album on itunes. He later confirmed his signing deal officially for Lil Wayne's recording label Young Money Entertainment. One notable incident in Drake's career occurred in 2009. He decided to go on tour with his record label company to perform over several different locations around the US. During a performance in New Jersey, Drake fell and tore his ACL while on stage(Biography)! Following the incident, he decided to go through the surgery process.

Throughout the years leading up to 2019, Drake really influenced modern day rappers such as Travis Scott and Migos. His albums and mixtapes always told a story with emotion with occasional references to pop culture. From my personal experience, I really enjoyed Drake's album from 2018: Scorpion. It was one of the most played albums on spotify and continues to dominate the music industry. Gods Plan, one of the most played songs from that album reached worldwide attention when he brought attention to some of the unfortunate communities around the United States. Another song, which also reached world wide attention, was also part of Scorpion titled In my feelings. The song describes Drake's feelings toward a girl and talks about how he feels about her. The internet has retaliated to this song and created the "In my feelings challenge. The

purpose of this challenge is to dance to the first verse of this song while your car is on the drive feature. It has been replicated multiple times by famous celebrities and became an internet phenomenon!

Besides his music career, Drake has been gaining a lot of attention in other worlds of pop culture as well! In 2018, Drake went live with a Twitch streamer named Ninja and played Fortnite for several days. It became one of the most watched moments on Twitch with 600,000 concurrent viewers(ESPN)! He enjoys video games today and occasionally joins in on other streamers as well. Drake is also most notably known as the global ambassador for the NBA team, Toronto Raptors since 2013. Since then, he has traveled with the team and helped cheer them on through the ups and downs of every NBA season. Most recently Drake got a lot of praise for supporting his team in 2019 when the Toronto Raptors won their first NBA Finals championship! All in all, Drake is a very diversified musician where his talents aren't limited to rapping.

Aubrey Drake Graham, hands down is one of the greatest pioneers in mainstream rap during the 21st century. What sets him apart from other rappers is the fact that he is famous in his works other than music. "I was born to make mistakes, not to fake perfection"(Drake). This quote really

impacts me as a person because as a people we fear rejection and expect everything to be perfect the way they are. What Drake is trying to tell us is that we are born to learn all the way to the end and making mistakes are a part of life. From a musical perspective, he indicates that feelings are often very hard to express as a person and if you take the step to actually tell people how you feel that makes you unique among others. Drake continues to enrich all of us in his music and I hope his music career will impact the rest of the world.

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