# Four Sample Ways to Use and Cite (Web) Sources: Public Enemy's "Fight the Power"

#### 1. CITING THE AUTHOR/SOURCE "IN-TEXT"

[Using Part of an Interview from a Website in Introduction Paragraphs]

Rock journalist David Saunier once asked Public Enemy's Chuck D if he was "unique in hip-hop" because Chuck D puts a "lot of concern and common sense" into his lyrics. Reflecting on his successful recording career, Chuck D replied, "Yeah . . . It's unique that I've been in rap and hip-hop for 20 years. And it's unique that I have a concern for what I put down because I believe words can resonate. I believe words can spark action."

Because I'm a huge fan of rap and hip hop in general and Public Enemy in particular, Chuck D's emphasis on words resonating and sparking action especially appeals to me. That's why I like what I've heard from Chuck D, Flavor Flav, and the other members of Public Enemy. In "Fight the Power," for example, the members of Public Enemy skillfully address social problems African-Americans face today. Further, they seek to empower listeners, to encourage not only racial pride but also social action.

- Chuck D. "Fight the Power." Fear of a Black Planet. Def Jam Records, 1990.
- Goldman, Marlene. "Something Happening Here: Chuck D. Puts All The Hype and Noise into Perspective." Rolling Stone. 3 Dec. 2002 www.rollingstone.com/news/printer\_friendly.asp?nid=4258&cf=2360
- Saunier, David. "Louder Than A Bomb: Is Chuck D's Voice the Voice of Change?" <u>Horizon</u>. 2 Feb. 1999. 3 Dec 2002. www.horizonmag.com/1/chuckd.htm

#### 2. CITING THE AUTHOR/SOURCE "END-OF-TEXT"

[Using Part of an Interview from a Website in The Intro. Paragraphs]

Public Enemy's Chuck D was once asked if he was "unique in hip-hop" because he puts a "lot of concern and common sense" into his lyrics. Reflecting on his successful recording career, Chuck D replied, "Yeah . . . It's unique that I've been in rap and hip-hop for 20 years. And it's unique that I have a concern for what I put down because I believe words can resonate. I believe words can spark action" (Saunier).

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### 3. CITING A SOURCE WITH NO AUTHOR, "END-OF-TEXT"

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#### 4. CITING THE AUTHOR/SOURCE "IN-TEXT"

[Using Part of an Interview in a Sample Body Paragraph]

In addition to encouraging listeners to "Fight the Power," Chuck D and Flavor Flav seem to attack two American icons: Elvis and John Wayne. Chuck D raps, "Elvis was a hero to most / But he never meant shit to me, you see / Straight out racist that sucker was / Simple and plain." Of course, Chuck D's language may be too confrontational or controversial for many listeners, but he has explained that in fact he and Flavor Flav are not necessarily attacking Elvis himself; they're attacking the *image* of Elvis in America. While talking about his FOX television show with *Rolling Stone* journalist Marlene Goldman, Chuck D points out that he once discussed Elvis with Rufus Thomas and Little Richard. Thomas and Richard "just slammed the whole aspect of him being an icon by the society of America," Chuck D explains. He comments further, "They saw him come from a quiet white boy admiring of black music into this monster that America created. So there's a respect for Elvis and his craft. When I mentioned Elvis in 'Fight the Power' I think I was talking about the icon of Elvis."

Contrasted, then, with his attack on the icon of Elvis in America is Chuck D's emphasis on racial pride and the importance of speaking out against injustice. Chuck D raps, "'Cause I'm Black and I'm proud / I'm ready, I'm hyped, plus I'm amped." Here, Chuck D demonstrates . . .

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