

## Independent Study Proposal

I would like to embark in research that will shine a light on the Social Impact of Tupac Shakur's Lyrics. By concentrating on his lyrics, I can ignore Tupac's character, which is an issue that I will tackle in subsequent study. All bias aside, there is no other entertainer who conjures up such emotion (positive and negative) as Tupac Shakur. A woman in Texas even tried to sue Tupac claiming that her husband's murderer was influenced by Tupac's music to commit the crime.

Before his death in 1996, Tupac had completed five albums. He was notoriously known as a workaholic and posthumously, 2 more albums have been released with a third due in December. My research will only examine those works that were complete before his death. Poor production and repetitious lyrics have marred his subsequent work. In terms of guest appearances, availability will be the deciding factor. While I own all of Tupac's albums, being from the East Coast does not afford me the luxury of attaining 'underground' songs that may have not been widely distributed.

In terms of literature, the following books will comprise my background reading:

*Tupac Shakur* – by the editors of the Vibe  
*The Killing of Tupac Shakur* – Cathy Scott  
*Rebel for the Hell of It* – Armond White  
*The Rose that Grew from Concrete* – Tupac Shakur  
*Between God and Gangsta Rap* – Michael Eric Dyson  
*Got Your Back* – Frank Alexander

Finally, I will obtain a full transcript of Tupac's lyrics. The end result of this will be a journal quality paper which will then be reduced to magazine quality article length.