

Assignment 3 Due November 18, 2002

We begin class each by “Droppin’ the Needle.” Here we take a snippet of a song, and examine its content for poetic approach (i.e. rhyme pattern), message, relevance, veracity etc. As we begin to look at the visual and audio elements of Hip-hop, I feel you are ready to listen to rap music on a broader scale. The following list of artists [I admit to using personal preference to some extent as I own all of the albums on this list] represents Hip-hop acts who pioneered some aspect of the genre. For example, Public Enemy took Hip-hop activism to a new level, A Tribe Called Quest fused jazz with Hip-hop . . .

- Public Enemy
- A Tribe Called Quest
- Eminem
- Gangstarr
- Outkast
- Goodie Mob (not *World Order*)
- Eric B. and Rakim
- Tupac Shakur
- Notorious BIG
- KRS One
- The Roots
- NWA
- Queen Latifah
- Redman
- Slick Rick
- Bahamadia
- Ghostface Killah

You must choose one album** by one of these artist and write a 3-4 page paper, focusing on the following points:

- Main theme of album
- Dominant rhyme pattern (you may need to download lyrics for this)
- Use of tone, inflection, speed (of delivery) in rhyme
- Beats used [samples heard, use of deejay, use of artificial tones -- honking horns etc]
- Historical relevance - does the album make reference to events of the day?
- Elements of Hip-hop evident in album or album cover
- Your thoughts on the album . . . does it stay true to the original doctrine of Hip-hop?

Please do not feel like you have to comment on every song. Take the album as a whole and reference songs as needed.

As always, please e-mail me <<mailto:ajryan@gmu.edu>> a copy of the assignment.

** You may not choose any albums which are greatest hits OR albums released posthumously.