



beats, rhymes, & culture

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While it is my normal practice to allow students the flexibility to write on any topic they wish, I have found that the expansive horizons of Hip-hop pose a problem for most. With that being the case, I will borrow (with permission) a list of Hip-hop subject areas from a recent conference held at the University of Michigan. I invite you to write a 10 page paper on one of the following topics [if there is an area you would like to explore which is not listed, contact me for approval]:

- + **Boundaries in Hip-Hop Communities and Cultures**
- + **Race, Class, and Gender Issues in Hip Hop**
- + **Representations of Sex and Sexuality**
- + **Production vs. Consumption in Hip Hop**
- + **Female Agency and Subjectivity in Hip Hop**
- + **Definitions of Hip Hop**
- + **Violence in Hip Hop**
- + **Artists as Role Models**
- + **Hip Hop in the Capitalist System**
- + **Technology and the Development of Hip-Hop Culture**
- + **Hip Hop in the Academy**

- + **Hip-Hop Cinema**

- + **Representations of Hip Hop in the Media**

- + **Style and Fashion**

- + **Hip Hop and Black Business**

- + **Hip Hop as a Teaching Device**

- + **Underground vs. Commercial Hip Hop**

- + **The Globalization of Hip-Hop Culture**

- + **Authenticity and Minstrelsy in the Performance of Blackness**

- + **Hip Hop, Religion, and Spirituality**

- + **The Generational Divide in Hip Hop**

- + **Hip Hop and Community Activism**

I have a STRICT format [Adobe Acrobat (.pdf)|MS Word (.doc)] which I expect ALL papers to follow. I will not accept a paper which does not meet these guidelines. Be sure to take advantage of the computer center for assistance on formatting. As college students, I expect that you are able to make the technology work for you.

As always, please send me an electronic copy of this paper. I will not grade ANY paper which does not have an accompanying soft copy by the DUE DATE.