

BEATS, RHYME, and CULTURE FALL 2003

Assignment 1 Due Monday September 8, 2003 (5% of grade)

The following is a list of the 24 FIVE MIC albums as awarded by *The Source* magazine. For a bit of info on how 5 Mics are awarded, go to: <http://home.fuse.net/ButchGibson/5mic.htm>. The Source also has a page on these albums too: http://www.thesource.com/html/fm_01.htm.

2Pac - *All Eyes On Me*

2Pac - *Me Against The World*

A Tribe Called Quest - *Low End Theory*

A Tribe Called Quest - *People's Instinctive Travels Through The Paths of Rhythm*

BDP - *By All Means Necessary*

BDP - *Criminal Minded*

Beastie Boys - *License To Ill*

Big Daddy Kane - *Long Live The Kane*

Brand Nubian - *One For All*

De La Soul - *De La Soul Is Dead*

Dr. Dre - *2001*

Dr. Dre - *The Chronic*

EPMD - *Strictly Business*

Eric B. & Rakim - *Let The Rhythm Hit Em*

Eric B. & Rakim - *Paid In Full*

Geto Boys - *Grip It On That Over Level*

Ice Cube - *Amerikkka's Most Wanted*

Ice Cube - *Death Certificate*

Jay-Z - *Reasonable Doubt*

Jay-Z - *The Blueprint*

Jungle Brothers - *Straight Outta The Jungle*

LL Cool J - *Radio*

Main Source - *Breaking Atoms*

Mobb Deep - *The Infamous*

N.W.A. - *Straight Outta Compton*

Nas - *Illmatic*

Nas - *Stillmatic*

Notorious B.I.G. - *Life After Death*

Notorious BIG - *Ready To Die*

Outkast - *Aquemini*

Public Enemy - *It Takes A Nation Of Millions To Hold Us Back*

Raekwon - *Built 4 Cuban Linx*

Run DMC - *Raising Hell*

Run DMC - *Run DMC*

Scarface - *The Diary*

Scarface - *The Fix*

Slick Rick - *The Adventures Of Slick Rick*

Snoop Dogg - *Doggystyle*

The D.O.C. - *No One Can Do It Better*
 The Fugees - *The Score*
 Ultramagnetic M.C.s - *Critical Beatdown*
 Wu-Tang Clan - *Enter The 36 Chambers*

Your assignment is to listen to the album of your choosing and write a short paper describing it. There are many angles to write from, what I do not want is a review of the album. Instead, take it as an opportunity to express your comfort level with rap music. **Is it the beats**, Who was the producer for that track? Is it the storyline? (please give De La Soul a chance). Is it subject matter? Is it all fiction? . . . just a few ideas.

Please use proper citation when referencing songs. See below for example:

*No Malcolm
 all blacks /
 smacked, tu*

*ucate and liberate
 l blacks, if they get*

*As real as i
 us locked u
 our history*

*scheme / To keep
 our name / Kept
 it for meⁱⁱ*

*No one in t
 the chambe
 how it is /
 against the*

*rgers / Put one in
 s / Cause this is
 uth / It's just me*

*I felt like it
 have done t*

'Tupac couldn't

*He went fr
 Addicted to
 was our nig*

*er local celebrity /
 / See, first you
 slay you^v*

*And they sa
 vi*

' all the killin here

"I'm not s

the world, but I

guarantee that I will spark the brain that will change the world."

- Tupac Shakur (June 16, 1971 – September 7, 1996)

ⁱ Tupac Shakur, "Words of Wisdom" 2Pacalypse Now (Interscope Records, 1992).

ⁱⁱ 2Pac, "1 in 21 A Tupac Shakur Story" Panther Power (AIM Records, 1997).

ⁱⁱⁱ Ibid.

^{iv} Editors of Vibe, ed. Tupac Shakur. (New York: Three Rivers Press, 1998), 50.

^v 2Pac, "I Ain't Mad At Cha" All Eyez on Me (Death Row Records, 1995).

^{vi} 2Pac, "Only God Can Judge Me" All Eyez on Me (Death Row Records, 1995).