

Beats, Rhyme, and Culture: Summer 2004

Online Chat Assignment

Meeting Timeframe: Monday June 14-June 21

You have been placed in the following groups (e-mail alias in parentheses, just add 'gmu.edu').

Group 1: Laura Bellows (lbellows), Cynthia Dumas (cdumas), Jennifer Green (jgreen8), Brian High (bhigh)

Group 2: Ryan Fitzgerald (rfitzger), Brian Indre (bindre), Erin Vanover (evanover)

Group 3: Rami Bader (rbader), Deva Burdette (dburdet1), James Byrnes (jbyrnes)

Please familiarize yourself Webct (webct38.gmu.edu) and its many features. There are 3 chat rooms, 1 for each group where you will be required to meet and discuss certain topics.

Here are some guidelines/hints for a successful chat session:

The online chat is not about chaos. Plan, delegate, coordinate. You can have one person do some research, another 2 look at the survey, and the other person come up with an agenda and be the leader for the group discussion. Feel free to do it whichever way you like . . . but meeting online and saying: '**So what are we supposed to do?**' demonstrates lack of preparedness.

This week's chat will focus on the first reading: *Minstrelsy in Hip-hop*. I have come up with four questions as a start. As a group, please come up with 3 more which you will discuss in your chat. Before you meet online, please e-mail me your agenda and the time you plan to meet.

1. Should we look at Hip-hop as anything more than entertainment?
2. Can any one race own Hip-hop?
3. Do you see traces of minstrelsy in society today?
4. How do the early beginnings of Hip-hop mesh with the minstrelsy argument in Manigross' paper?

Chat expectations:

1. This is not an exercise in personal opinion. Your comments should be fact-based and include references for material which may be difficult to clarify.
2. All readings should be done prior to the chat.
3. At least 30 minutes of external research should be performed prior to the chat. You should 'bring something to the table'.
4. Remember, I may lurk on your chat for a few minutes, but all sessions will be recorded for my review.
5. The chat should go on for at least 45 minutes . . . plan accordingly!