

nic three seventy five black voices in hip hop assignment one

Due (via e-mail – ajryan@gmu.edu) by midnight Thursday February 26th
(Please name your file descriptively, lastname_paper1.doc would be beautiful)

Tupac Shakur espoused a philosophy, which he developed with the help of godfather Mutulu Shakur, named THUG LIFE. With its true meaning hidden within the acronym, The Hate You Give Little Infants F*cks Everyone,¹ speaks to the inequities faced by America's youth and the negative repercussions which result. Without a doubt, Pac focused his interests on America's urban youth, although his appeal brought his message to the suburbs too.

So far in class, we have looked at the social, economic, and educational realities facing inner city youth. With Pac being born in 1972, it is highly unlikely he based his philosophy on the happenings of the late 1960s and 1970s. It is your assignment to describe how the urban landscape was tilted upward during the years early Hip-hoppers were organizing, creating a lifetime uphill battle for its young inhabitants. There are several ways you can attack this paper, resist the urge to write about everything. Instead, 'box-in' your thoughts and only comment on relevant topics.

For instance, one could look at the positive reaction of the post Civil Rights Movement. Change was in the air and the youth just got lost in the mix. Then comment on some of the after effects which were felt in urban areas. Then link the readings etc. But do not feel the need to cover everything.

An 'A' paper will not only detail the policy or cite the statistics which created an urban ghetto in the south Bronx, but also provide insight into how this new youth culture responded to it. The generational/cultural gap which existed, not only between parents and children, but policy makers and urban dwellers is also a ripe subject topic.

I will post an **online message board** [in WebCT] room for discussion on this topic. Feel free to share paper ideas, reference articles, questions/comments, etc with your classmates. I will also monitor the site and respond to queries if needed.

You may use lecture notes, readings, library books (yes they still exist), and naturally the Web for your research needs. ALL references must be correctly cited (I prefer endnotes, [see example here](#)). **Any paper with incorrect citations will be docked up to one full letter grade** (i.e. a B+ becomes a C+).

¹ I don't think I've ever censored Pac, but since it is not really a direct quote, I chose to go with the less offensive version of the 'carnal act.'

[I am also a stickler for spelling . . . Spell Check is free, any blatantly misspelled words will be docked a partial letter grade (i.e.-- B+ becomes a B; A becomes an A-)].

As always, this is your assignment. I am open to any personal modifications you wish to make to this assignment which may enhance your learning experience. Contact me via e-mail with any such requests. Oh yes, the BIG question, I generally don't assign page limits, but I'd say the best writer can do this topic justice in about 3-4 pages. I will read anything you send me . . . wish I could be of more help here.

LYRICS TO GO

THEY SAY THEY WANT YOU SUCCESSFUL
BUT THEN THEY MAKE IT STRESSFUL
YOU START KEEPING WITH THE PACE
THEY START CHANGIN UP THE TEMPO

"MR NIGGA", Mos DEF BLACK ON BOTH SIDES