



Civic Lab: Hip-Hop Music and Culture

Hip-hop is constantly evolving. Join us for a conversation and listening activities exploring the state of hip-hop today, as music and as culture.

Conversation Questions

1. What is hip-hop?
2. What is the state of hip-hop?
3. What is your favorite rhyme or beat?

Listen

Déjà Vu: Episode 1: Is Kendrick Lamar the new 2Pac? (via Spotify/Genius)

<https://spoti.fi/2DaazLK>

Entertainment journalist Stereo Williams facilitates a conversation about the connection between Kendrick Lamar and 2Pac, and how they inspire their respective generations.

Read

Hip Hop Files: Photographs 1979-1984 by Martha Cooper

<https://skokielibrary.bibliocommons.com/item/show/1449010133>

A diverse collection of some of the earliest images of hip-hop culture spanning the late 1970s and early 1980s in the streets of New York City.

In the Heart of the Beat: The Poetry of Rap by Alex D. Pate

<https://skokielibrary.bibliocommons.com/item/show/1615381133>

With a focus on the poetic foundation of hip-hop and rap, this book discusses the literary value of hip-hop, from historical and contemporary viewpoints.





***The Anthology of Rap* edited by Adam Bradley and Andrew DuBois**

<https://skoki.library.bibliocommons.com/item/show/1649306133>

The first written anthology of lyrics spanning rap's recorded history from the late 1970s-2010, with a brief synopsis of artists, songs, and periods throughout rap history.

“The Paths of Rhythm” by Hanif Abdurraquib (via Longreads)

<http://bit.ly/2tfMfIX>

An excerpt from Abdurraquib's recently released book, this piece outlines growing up with the music of A Tribe Called Quest.

“Music Sermon: Missy Elliott's Underrated Songwriting Genius” by Naima Cochrane (via Vibe magazine)

<http://bit.ly/2SvZych>

Playlist master and raconteur Naima Cochrane takes us on a journey through the musical career of rapper and songwriter Missy Elliott, part of Cochrane's #MusicSermon series.

“Hip-Hop Words” via *The Pudding*

<http://bit.ly/2wSXxRc>

This interactive infographic features 308 different hip-hop and rap artists visually grouped by their lyrical similarities.

Watch

***Black Thought Freestyles on Flex* | #FREESTYLE087**

<http://bit.ly/2CqCchU>

Watch one of the masters of freestyle destroy the microphone in this epic, long-ranging verse on Funkmaster Flex's Hot 97 show.

