

Acharya, Monica. "How Are Hip Hop and Rap Music Affecting the Youth? – Monica Acharya – Medium." *Medium*, Medium, 11 Nov. 2015, [medium.com/@moni\\_ach/how-are-hip-hop-and-rap-music-affecting-the-youth-4b4a03b03236](https://medium.com/@moni_ach/how-are-hip-hop-and-rap-music-affecting-the-youth-4b4a03b03236).

Acharya claims hip-hop has evolved from its original intent of voicing the black political and social struggles to a record label money scheme that glamorizes drugs and violence. She supports this by deciphering its effects on sex and drugs. Citing the Black Youth Project, she reveals that those who in general listens to more rap, specifically the white and black youth which was researched, has shown to experiment with drug use and unsafe sex more so than their counterparts. She later goes on to cite the Pacific Institute of Research and Evaluation which researched 1,200 California community-college students who age ranged from 15-25. Their surveys revealed that aggressive behaviors, alcohol, and drug use all increased by 70% if rap was their preferred music choice. The author is addressing the alleged deification of illegal substances within the rap world. The source was chosen as it serves as an opinion piece backed by statistics, as it's a blog post, and allows one to respond to my question to evaluate a fact-based piece of literature. Although in some aspects it is reliable, it those hold a bias as the author chooses to ignore "conscious rap", making it seem as though all rap, from the hundreds of subgenres, are glorifying drugs etc.

Britton, Luke Morgan. "Is This Conclusive Proof That Rap Music Does Not Influence Crime?" *Noisey*, 16 Sept. 2014, [noisey.vice.com/da/article/6xzbw3/study-proves-rap-does-not-influence-crime](https://noisey.vice.com/da/article/6xzbw3/study-proves-rap-does-not-influence-crime).

In response to previous biased research which used erroneous variables to expose whether rap influences crime, the Rap Research Lab are attempting to develop a searchable database of hip-hop to find a definite accurate answer. While acknowledging art does influence human's actions, the article claims its greatly over exaggerated to its extent and does so through the chart which will be presented it the prompt. The article points out media has in the past charged Elvis of being excessively sexual and Limp Bizkit of normalizing back pocket wallet chains, and now charges rap of infecting society, instead of being the product of a corrupt one. Tahir Hemphill research on a searchable database of hip-hop data base which would be used by the Lab's Kohdra to plot mentions of crime in relation to actual crimes. The result was a lack of correlation. I choose this article as it's a valid source which utilizes unbiased research, allowing reads to not be misguided based off false facts. For this reason it is reliable, although the website hosting the writing seems to be biased as they often interview hip hop artists.

Ceo, Baby. "Youngest In Charge pic.Twitter.com/NDA0QnhCrW." *Twitter*, Twitter, 12 June 2016, [twitter.com/ceobudgang/status/741817983366881282](https://twitter.com/ceobudgang/status/741817983366881282).

The point of this image is to present an image of an extremely young boy, aged 12, with a stage name of "Baby Ceo" who is seen in a compilation of pictures holding a bag of marijuana; holding a shotgun, automatic gun with an extended clip, and semiautomatic pistol; and lastly smoking a joint in several pictures addressing the effect of rap on impressionable children. I choose the picture as it hits the audience hard, although the example is a rare extreme and other issues most likely the reason for this

behavior and for this reason it is biased, although, the image being real makes it reliable allowing a viewer to manipulate it to however they desire.

“China Bans Hip-Hop Culture and Tattoos From TV.” *Time*, Time,  
[time.com/5112061/china-hip-hop-ban-tattoos-television/](http://time.com/5112061/china-hip-hop-ban-tattoos-television/).

China’s recent media ban on rap reflects the communist state’s racism and ignorance on western culture. Although, it reflects hip hops effect on the world the most. The sub-culture has been leaking throughout cities across the globe, and just as conservatives within the US aren’t very welcoming to it, traditionalist across the world aren’t very esteemed on its arrival either. Now being the most popular genre within the United States, its effecting society as a whole. Readers are to question whether rap is so littered that it should be banned from society as a whole, or if such measures seem maybe counter intuitive and push rebels even more to enjoy or act out on the music. I picked the source as it gives rap a perspective from a completely different nation. The article is reliable as it is sourced from Time, and holds very little bias as its reporting with straight facts.

Hattenstone, Simon. “Jay-Z: The boy from the hood who turned out good.” *The Guardian*,  
Guardian News and Media, 19 Nov. 2010,  
[www.theguardian.com/music/2010/nov/20/jay-z-interview-simon-hattenstone](http://www.theguardian.com/music/2010/nov/20/jay-z-interview-simon-hattenstone). The article overviews Jay-Z's life in a miniature biography. Although, an excerpt of him shooting his brother for stealing his rings, nearly killing him will be focused on. He describes being the age of 12, shooting the pistol, and then deciding to rap about the incident in his song

You Must Love Me ("Saw the devil in your eyes, high off more than weed, confused, I just closed my young eyes and squeezed, what a sound, opened my eyes just in time to see ya stumbling to the ground"). When the lyrics are deciphered, it reveals Jay, who sold crack cocaine throughout New York to support his family, now realized his brother was under the influence of something harder than weed- crack, confused and realizing his effects on society, he acted erratically and shot his own blood. He later explains he got the gun from someone's house, revealing they weren't difficult to obtain and they were "just everywhere", putting readers into his perspective, an issue most readers are unable to situate themselves in. I choose the source as it was a direct source of Jay-Z, a legend in rap, and a prime example of society's effects on the culture, allowing readers to respond while being able to somewhat emphasize with his situation. It is reliable as it is a primary source, and may seem biased towards the positivity of rap since it comes directly from a hip-hop artist.

“Kanye West: Free Form.” *SURFACE*, 28 Mar. 2017, [www.surfacemag.com/articles/kanye-west-art-design-never-compromise/](http://www.surfacemag.com/articles/kanye-west-art-design-never-compromise/). Kanye West infamously known for being narcissistic and egotistical, although some may argue otherwise, is an surprising prodigious role model for children. The source is an interview conducted by the prestigious Surface Magazine. Going off of multiple tangents, Kanye is shown as a man who knows no boundaries, venturing off into the world of fashion after much criticism, now becoming one of the most sought after designers who's clothing has a resale markup of 100% its retail value due to its demand and low stock. He's designed architecture in an unreleased collaboration with iKea as he hoped to appeal to the common people, and pushed himself

into the art realm as you'll so often find him at galleries. This addresses the idea pushed by society that one must specialize and become a professional within one subject, limiting our thought process and knowledge. Kanye's avant garde thought process is liberating and innovates the youth which he appeals to the most. For this reason I choose the source, and one responding to the question can utilize a quote to reveal how media's agenda ultimately is biased towards minority cultures. It is reliable as it's published by a respected newspaper although is biased as it's an interview between a legendary rapper.

Keilman, John. "Xanax and opioids prove lethal mix as deaths soar: 'It's a prescription drug, people can rationalize it'." *Chicagotribune.com*, 17 Feb. 2018, [www.chicagotribune.com/suburbs/ct-met-xanax-death-increase-20180215-story.html](http://www.chicagotribune.com/suburbs/ct-met-xanax-death-increase-20180215-story.html). The news articles comes to surface after famous internet rapper Lil Peep died from an accidental lethal opioid mix of Xanax and fentanyl. Citing users of Xanax, who found relief from their anxiety and now suffer from abuse and unproductivity. Benzodiazepine abuse continues to grow and the Cook County singly saw 333 deaths last year, increasing by 3 from 2015. Lil Peep claimed he dramatized his drug use as it was demanded from the music business, although unfortunately was a victim of a overdose on his tour bus, minute before he was set for perform at a Arizona concert. It addresses the glorification of drug use which some say is exaggerated, despite dozens of hip-hop public figures dying from overdose every year, namely A\$AP Yams and more recently Chicago's well known Fredo Santana who died from liver failure after excessive amount of lean usage. I choose the source to give all the claims of drug usage and glorification a face and personification. It's easier to ignore such claims when it's a statistic, although

when given an actual human example to symbolize a statistic it holds much more weight, for this reason also being useful to one responding to the question. The source is reliable as it comes from the well-established Chicago Tribune, and may be slightly biased as the author generalizes all rap based off one death.

OpinionDesire Thompson | December 11, 2015 - 2:00 pm. "Kendrick Lamar's "Alright" Was The Movement's Anthem In 2015." *Vibe*, 25 Dec. 2015, [www.vibe.com/2015/12/kendrick-lamar-alright-protest-anthem-2015/](http://www.vibe.com/2015/12/kendrick-lamar-alright-protest-anthem-2015/). The Vibe article reflects on how Kendrick Lamar's single "Alright" off his critically acclaimed and Grammy award winning "To Pimp a Butterfly" served as an anthem in the civil unrest which occurred in the summer of 2015. Under scrutiny that hip-hop culture only serves a negative effect on the population, the Black Lives Matter movement decided to use such music throughout their marches, most of which were peaceful- although some notably turned violent. The song which reflects on police violence fit the theme as the organization was made after a number of police brutality cases came into the public's light. The fact that a rap song was used in a civil rights march can be used by a reader to respond to the prompts question, rejecting the stereotype that rap only centers around sex and drug use.

project., ~ :the astound. "The Positivity Of Hip Hop Culture." *The astound project*, 5 Oct. 2015, [theastoundproject.wordpress.com/2015/10/05/the-positivity-of-hip-hop-culture/](http://theastoundproject.wordpress.com/2015/10/05/the-positivity-of-hip-hop-culture/).

The WordPress opinion piece echoes on the positivity of hip-hop culture within today's society. Pointing out university courses which decipher rap music and its evolution from its origins from the Bronx's streets, it reveals rap has been

institutionalized. It also explains the unknown different subgenres of rap, differentiating conscious rap which pushes for political and social awareness; calling for an end of violence, and mainstream music which is pushed by record labels and radio stations. It continues to describe how it promotes individuality, enabling the youth to break through stereotypical limits, and how hip-hop is a symptom of violence instead of being a source which is ultimately due to the government ignoring inner-city needs and racism. It is useful to someone responding to the prompt since it's an opinion piece written by someone who has a great understanding of rap, which is also the reason I choose the source. It is reliable as it uses several researches, although is blatantly biased.

Watts, Devin FriedmanBen. "Young Thug Is an ATLien (and the Best Rapper Alive)." *GQ*, GQ, 16 Feb. 2016, [www.gq.com/story/young-thug-best-rapper-alive-interview](http://www.gq.com/story/young-thug-best-rapper-alive-interview).

A man named Young Thug may not seem to be a role model at first sight due to all presumptions and prejudice that comes with his stage name, although the article which serves as a biography of the rapper divulges on his hardships and how he manipulated rap to break out of the penitentiary which he spent most of his youth trapped in. Once insecure of his rotting teeth, and speaking with his hand covering his mouth, he now grew into a man with hundred thousand dollar veneers, who breaks gender barriers as he wears dresses in photoshoots while carrying around AR-15s. Rap has allowed him to stop selling drugs and focus on his artistic ability which made him a millionaire with a cult fan base. I chose this source as Young Thug truly has a unique personality and story which could be utilized within the prompt to show how rap allows the youth to break away from

their illegal activities. Conducted by GQ, the interview is reliable, although may show a bias as a rapper is being interrogated.