

English Language and Composition
Reading Time: 15 minutes
Suggested Writing Time: 40 minutes

Directions: The following prompt is based on the accompanying ten sources.

This question requires you to integrate a variety of sources into a coherent, well-written essay. *Refer to the sources to support your position; avoid mere paraphrase or summary. Your argument should be central; the sources should support this argument.*

Remember to attribute both direct and indirect citations.

Introduction

Throughout the past several decades, hip-hop has increasingly grown in popularity, and in 2017, it officially became the most popular genre in the United States. Now having dozens of subgenres, growing out of its traditional hard-hitting DJ beats and emcee rhymes, its captured an audience of all ethnicities and cultures. Despite hip-hop establishing itself as a mainstream giant, it's no stranger to controversy as some charge that it glorifies misogyny, gun violence, drug use, and all around crime, tainting the youth and generating a subculture. Others allege it serves as a form for those within the lower-class to express themselves and their experiences in an artistic way.

Comment [1]: Nicely done! but make sure your claim in the assignment portion matches

Assignment

Read the following sources (including any introductory information) carefully. **Then, in an essay that synthesizes at least five of the sources for support, take a position that defends, challenges, or qualifies the claim that Hip Hop negatively affects society's treatment of women.**

Comment [2]: Better claim than before

Refer to the sources as Source A, Source B, etc.; titles are included for your convenience.

Source A (Acharya)
Source B (Britton)
Source C (Ceo)
Source D ("China Bans Hip-Hop Culture and Tattoos From TV.")
Source E (Hattenstone)
Source F ("Kanye West: Free Form.")
Source G (Keilman)
Source H (OpinionDesire)
Source I (project:, ~ :the astound.)
Source J (Watts)

Comment [3]: Excellent sources!!

Source A

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.

Comment [4]: citations looks great

The following passage is excerpted from an opinion-piece backed by statistics regarding how youth sex and drug use is affected by hip-hop.

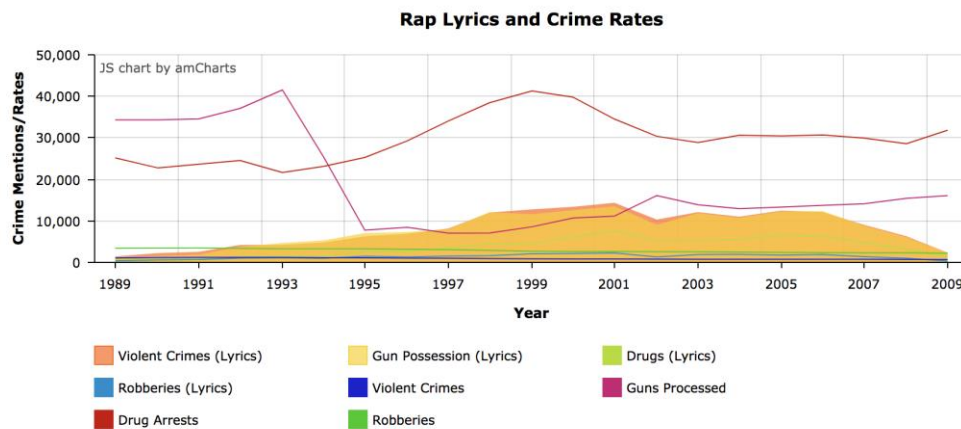
These days, most of the sexual scenes are usually seen in hip hop music videos. So, why does this matter, and how is this affecting the youth? I will explain these questions in details. Hip hop and rap music have a negative impact on the sexual decisions of the youth because when young people watch these videos, they might think that it is okay to become intimate with whoever they desire, regardless of the number of people. This highly increases the risk of pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases.

Then, what is the connection between hip hop/rap and their negative effects on the youth? The Black Youth Project revealed that 58% black youth and 23% white youth listen to rap music everyday, and 25% black youth and 5% white youth watch rap music programs daily. In another research study, the Journal of Adolescent Research published a survey which reveals that there is a close relationship between music preferences, and youth attitude and behaviors. The research surveyed the youth (ages 17–21) who disclosed that their favorite type of music was hip hop or rap, and 72% of them agreed that the music they listen to, in fact, influences them in some way. Furthermore, the research also discovered that young people who listen to hip hop or rap were more likely to exhibit risk-taking behaviors such as unsafe sex and drug use.

Source B

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.

The following graph is derived from an article which questions past research on the correlation between rap music and crime



Comment [5]: intriguing data

Source C

Ceo, Baby. "Youngest In Charge pic.Twitter.com/NDA0QnhCrW." *Twitter*, Twitter, 12 June 2016, twitter.com/ceobudgang/status/741817983366881282.

The following image is a tweet published by a 12 year old rapper "Baby Ceo" posed with guns and illegal substances.



Source D

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

The following passage is excerpted from a Times article regarding China’s recent media ban on hip-hop culture..

China has banned hip-hop culture and actors with tattoos from appearing on television.

The country’s top media regulator — the State Administration of Press, Publication, Radio, Film and Television of the People’s Republic of China (SAPPRFT) — now “specifically requires that programs should not feature actors with tattoos [or depict] hip hop culture, sub-culture (non-mainstream culture) and dispirited culture (decadent culture),” Sina, a Chinese news outlet, reports.

Gao Changli, director of the administration’s publicity department, outlined four “Don’t” rules on Friday:

Absolutely do not use actors whose heart and morality are not aligned with the party and whose morality is not noble

Absolutely do not use actors who are tasteless, vulgar and obscene

Absolutely do not use actors whose ideological level is low and have no class

Absolutely do not use actors with stains, scandals and problematic moral integrity

Source E

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.

The following passage is excerpted from an interview between The Guardian and iconic rapper Jay-Z

It was only gradually that he became aware of the consequences of selling drugs. "You're like, what happened to Debbie, the fine girl in the projects who gets on crack, then next year she loses her shape and beauty. First it was a joke, then as you get older you start to think, man, that really is decay in her body. There are many Debbies. And you still justify it, because that's how you make your money and you don't want to stop. You say, man, she making her own choice."

Through his 14 years on the streets, he never touched crack. He says there was a strict code among successful hustlers, and quotes me a line from the film *Scarface*: don't get high on your own supply. "We had these guidelines to help us out," he says. "Some of us died, some of us didn't. I never wanted that. I saw what it was doing to the community."

That's not to say he didn't get into trouble. At 12, he shot his older brother Eric in the shoulder for stealing his ring. Jay-Z has written about the incident in the 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") but he has never publicly talked about it before.

How did he get the gun? "I went to someone's crib, someone's house, and got it. Guns were everywhere. You didn't have to go far to get one. Just everywhere."

After the shooting, what did he think would happen to him? "I thought my life was over. I thought I'd go to jail for ever."

And what did happen? He has become monosyllabic. His discomfort is obvious. Did Eric simply not press charges? "Yes, that's right – he's my big brother." In fact when he visited Eric in hospital, his brother apologised for what crack had turned him into.

It's an astonishing story, I say. "Yes." Just talking about it gets to you? "Yes. It was terrible. I was a boy, a child. I was terrified."

Eric is clean these days, and the brothers get on. Was that the only time he shot someone? "Yeah. But guns were around every day. There were shoot-outs, but I never shot anyone else. Most people in shoot-outs don't get shot."

He knows just how lucky he was when he was hustling. He was shot at three times and each time the bullet missed. "It's like there was some rogue angel watching over us."

Have things changed in Brooklyn since then? "It's changed some, but not in certain areas. I was in Miami the other day and there was this sweep of 14-year-olds. It showed the weaponry they had – AK-47s, military weapons in the hands of these kids." Does he think if guns were less

readily available in the US there would be fewer violent deaths? "It's difficult for me because I'm of the mind that you correct people, you don't correct things." ... So if you take away guns, then what about knives or rocks? You gotta correct the problem, not the tool."

Does he carry a gun now? "No." Never? "No."

Our salads arrive – olives, chickpeas, crispy greens. As with all things Jay-Z, it's top quality – the crispiest lettuce money can buy. The chair I'm sitting on is the comfiest (but not flashest) I've ever sat on. He tells me more than once how important quality is to him. On the table in front of us are a number of elite magazines, all featuring Jay-Z on the front. He's got an unusual face for an idol: big puffy cheeks, pixie ears, fatherly and kind. There are a few stray hairs above his lip. Somehow, you'd expect him to be a more meticulous shaver. Today, he's dressed in casuals. On the cover of Forbes he is in a sober blue suit, every inch the businessman. He points me to the feature on him and Buffett. It's obviously tickled him that comparisons are being made. Who's wealthier? "Are you joking? He's a multi-billionaire." And him? "They expect me to have my first billion by 2015."

Source F

“Kanye West: Free Form.” *SURFACE*, 28 Mar. 2017,
www.surfacemag.com/articles/kanye-west-art-design-never-compromise/.

The following passage is excerpted from an article about the emotional impact of college football on African American athletes.

Wordless communication would be your preferred method?

Yeah, sign language, eye contact. Or thank God for emojis. So often one emoji goes a long way and lets me get on with my whole day.

I don't want to be a jerk, but there are certain people who are geniuses. Their emotional *and* social IQ is super high and they can get stuff done. Often, people who get really amazing stuff done have to cut off their emotional IQ. I can't stand this whole “How was your day?” thing that agents always say. I'm like, “You don't care about my day. Why'd you ask me about my day? Did we get done what we were supposed to get done?” But I do want to know how my daughter's day was. I do want to get an explanation of what she learned in school. I sincerely care about that.

I think business has to be stupider. I want to do really straightforward, stupid business—just talk to me like a 4-year-old. And I refuse to negotiate. I do not negotiate. I can collaborate. But I'm an artist, so as soon as you negotiate, you're being compromised.

You mentioned that you view yourself as an artist—

I didn't mention that I view myself that way. I just am. I never worded it like that. That's really offensive. Why did you say I view myself like that? Do you not view me as an artist?

I totally view you as an artist.

Okay, cool.

Can education help a person negotiate those systems?

People across the world just lack opportunities, period. I feel a responsibility because of my parents. They're activists and were in the world-changing business. Any extra goodwill or good skills I've gained I learned from them, and take along on my *Legend of Zelda* role-playing path in life. Life's like a RPG [role-playing game]. When you roll the dice, you've got three guys with you, and then you meet someone else, and then another person gives you information. That's how I met [designer and dealer] Axel Vervoordt—and I don't have to explain who that is; [you] can get it off of Google.

I met Axel through Willo [Perron]. It was eight times separated. A piece of information that led me to another piece of information that led me to another piece that led me to another piece ... that led me to Maastricht—I might say it wrong.

It seems like you have this crazy optimism about the world. Where does this come from?

Knowing that art can beat anything. Knowing that the artist shall rise. As sure as people have eyes, artists shall rise. Masters of visuals. Masters of communication. The art of conversation. Anything could be art in 10,000 hours.

You don't pigeonhole yourself. You've entered the realms of fashion, music, art, and design. What worlds do you want to enter next?

What's more important, design or art? Design is the ability to put structure to art, and art is the ability to break from structure. It's like a man and a woman, and obviously the woman, in the traditional sense, is the artist. I don't have an answer. I'm just posing this as a question.

The only good thing about a project being finished is that it can give you, possibly, if people like it, the opportunity to work on more projects. So is it about the work, or is it about *working*? If it was truly about working, that you could move like a shaman from project to project and just sprinkle some magic on each one, and not have to worry about digging your feet into the ground [to gain] the respect of fucktards that couldn't—I'm trying to use a better example than put their left and right shoe on correctly, but it's just the best one. These people do not have the education; they just have the money and the position.

I believe in always empowering people. I don't want to give you anything as definitive as "always do this." It's about finding a balance between being the person who knows the most and the person who's the most naïve.

Source G

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.

The following passage is excerpted from an article by the Chicago Tribune, following the recent overdose of rapper Lil Peep.

Hip-hop drug

The hazy, anesthetized sensation produced by benzodiazepine abuse has enchanted hip-hop artists in recent years, with young performers crowing about their consumption of "bars" (high-dosage Xanax pills have a rectangular shape).

Lil Peep — the stage name of 21-year-old "emo rapper" Gustav Ahr — portrayed himself as a Xanax devotee in lyrics, interviews and social media posts, though his grandmother, Jenny Kastner, said he exaggerated his drug use to play a role demanded by the music business.

But in November, just before he was to perform a concert in Arizona, Ahr was found dead on his tour bus, the victim of a Xanax and fentanyl overdose.

In the aftermath, other performers swore off illicit Xanax consumption, including some who had earlier boasted about their use. Even Lil Xan said he was done.

"I really don't agree with glorifying the drug at this point, especially in light of Lil Peep's death," he told MTV last month. "... I was already doing the anti-Xan thing, but you just gotta get off that stuff, man. It's not good for you."

Federal officials in 2016 cautioned about the hazards of combining benzodiazepines and opioids. The Food and Drug Administration required new warning labels, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommended that doctors avoid prescribing both medications concurrently.

Source H

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/.

The following passage is excerpted from an article regarding Kendrick Lamar's civic contribution from his song "Alright".

As critics continued to berate police officials over the loss of black lives in Ferguson and beyond, Kendrick's album was taking a beating of its own. Fans were surprised to find the album full of jazz, blues and funk inspiration. Those of the woke status praised it for presenting blackness in its blackest form and others realized the bars and glory K. Dot spit over tracks like "Blacker The Berry" and "Institutionalized" just weren't relatable.

...

A few months later, "Alright" the fourth single of the album served as Kendrick's performance opener for the BET Awards. As dancers waved American flags towards the audience, Kendrick stood on top of a graffiti covered police car spitting the truthful lyrics. A few days later, a luring video for the song was released but many were distracted due to swarming critics of Kendrick's performance. Rap heads fell in love with the surprise verse added in the performance while, on the other side of the fence, Geraldo Rivera slammed the rapper for provoking young blacks to hate law enforcement. Stunned, the rapper spoke out about the backlash to TMZ. "How can you take a song that's about hope and turn it into hatred?" he asked. "The overall message [of 'Alright'], is, 'We gon' be alright.' It's not a message of 'I want to kill people.' This is reality. This is my world. This is what I talk about in my music. You can't dilute that."

As the year pressed on, America experienced more exhausting racially-charged incidents. In addition to the Charleston, S.C. massacre, in which Dylann Roof executed nine Black churchgoers during a Bible study, countless cases of racial profiling on college campuses at University of Missouri, Yale and Harvard popped up and filled Twitter timelines. "Alright" began queuing up again in vines and viral videos at protests from West Baltimore to the streets of Chicago. We know now as a nation the problems we've dealt with are more than just about race. Police training and alleged overlook from government officials have also been brought to light.

Source I

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/.

The following passage is excerpted from an opinion piece describing hip-hop's positive effects on society since its birth.

Those who believe Hip-Hop has a negative effect on youth might argue the abundance of violence in lyrics exposes people to what they normally would not be exposed to, negatively affecting their actions and ways of thinking. Hip-Hop is accused of glorifying crime. Some claim Hip-Hop music is a source of violence; however, it is rather a symptom of violence. Instead of being an affective agent that threatens to harm youth, it is an outcry of issues that already exist. During the Senate Hearing on Lyrics and Labeling, The National Campaign for Freedom of Expression pointed out that discussions about direct correlation between media messages and actual acts of violence distract from the real causes of crime: issues related to child abuse, poverty, and parental neglect. Additionally, censorship will not safe-guard children from the ramifications of violence. It makes sense to educate youth on current issues described in this genre; whether one is exposed or not, these issues still exist, and it is better for them to be understood than ignored. If the controversial lyrics quieted down, it is likely that the problems associated with them would not.

People who are not in favor of Hip-Hop might also mention that other styles have flourished for much longer, and this one is just a phase of youth. While it is true that it has only existed since the 1970s, it has a promising future. The starting point for looking toward the future is to recognize the extent of the change already wrought by the culture. It must first be recognized as a music form and an important dance style versus merely a commercial trend. Just like the reaction to the introduction of Jazz and Rock, people are not always accepting of something new and controversial. Negative words limit creativity, and future artists will move forward. Hip-Hop is constantly evolving.

Even though older generations do not always approve of younger generations listening to and dancing to Hip-Hop music, everyone needs to be aware that its four components and several sub-components have changed the way people think about music and dance; it has a major impact on today's culture. Hip-Hop popular culture gives a voice to the voiceless. Many artists project encouragement to youth and this expressive style promotes inspiration; Hip-Hop culture is a way to discuss current issues. It is a form of art. Though it is controversial, it is here to stay.

Source J

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.

The following passage is excerpted from an interview/biography hybrid conducted by GQ on Young Thug's life.

His real name is Jeff. JEFF. He is 24 years old and six feet three inches tall but has the tiniest little feet, size 8.5, like someone had bound them when he was a child. A 26-inch waist. He eats almost nothing. Says he does not like to eat, and goes for days without food. On the third of every month, a doctor shows up at his mansion near Buckhead and injects him with vitamins. *All the greens*, he says, *to keep me healthy*. His toenails are immaculately manicured and painted iridescent. They look like tiny soap bubbles. He wears little girls' dresses as shirts sometimes, women's pants. When he likes something, he calls it sexy. He calls a Gucci shirt sexy, he calls men sexy, and women he flirts with. He recently called the 2-year-old son of a woman he was flirting with online sexy. He has six children by four women. He's on-again, off-again with his girlfriend, Jerrika, but at the time we talked he said they're engaged. He is one of 11 children, dropped out of high school, had his first child at 17. He grew up in Section 8 housing in a very poor, violent part of Atlanta. He had nothing, his first manager says, when he began rapping. Like, a few shirts, a pair of shoes. He was shy then. He didn't have the gold front teeth yet; his teeth were rotted, discolored. He covered them with his hand when he talked.

He is extremely close to his mother, who suffers from an enlarged heart. They call her Big Duck. They call his dad Big Jeff. His mom and dad call each other brother and sister now. His little sister Dora, whom he calls his twin, is almost constantly by his side. They call one of his brothers, phonetically, Oonphoonk. Oonphoonk is in prison on a murder conviction—another of Thug's brothers was murdered outside his house when Thug was a kid.

Thug recently took possession of two new purebred dogs, flown by airplane first-class from Snoop Dogg's dog breeder.

Thug drinks prescription cough syrup all day, takes Xanax, smokes marijuana, eats molly. Sometimes he does all of them at once. He rarely sleeps. A former friend said Thug would stay up for days, take lots of different kinds of drugs, then sleep for 24 to 48 hours.

Thug got in trouble when a mall security guard said Thug threatened to shoot him in the face. He's been questioned about firing shots at the tour bus of Lil Wayne, who was once and probably still is his greatest artistic hero. (Thug's former road manager was convicted for the incident.) He is known to have a temper, to have more—and more dangerous—bad blood with different factions in Atlanta than any other rapper. He refers to those allied against him as "peasants." There are always lots of guns around him. The people who travel with him cut an equally fashion-forward swath. As **GQ's* Style Guy, Mark Anthony Green, said during the photo shoot for this story: "You will never see bigger guns tucked into smaller pants." His main security guard carries a semiautomatic assault rifle even when Thug's at the recording studio. Just the

week before, a former security guard had been assassinated in his home near downtown Atlanta. No sign of forced entry. Shot to the back of the head. And still, the main engine in his life is his music, and the world loves it. Thug's put out 76 solo tracks in the past two years. He's at a spot now where he can make at least \$50,000 for a verse on another rapper's song, at least \$50,000 for every appearance. Last year he did his first tour and sold out 17 nights. But more than that, Thug has become a kind of status symbol, an unadulterated modern version of the give-no-f*/\$ rock star for people who don't care about the pop charts. All in ladies' Uggs.

Comment [6]: You have to edit inappropriate parts. You won't see this on the AP exam