

Performing/Composing a Hip-Hop Song

Performing and composing a Hip-Hop song is challenging yet rewarding. Hip-Hop writing requires a lot of patience and expression. The lyrics you speak need to come from inside of you and you have to truly stand up and believe in what you say.

Things To Keep In Mind:

- Who is your audience?*
- What do you want to sound like?*
- How can it be entertaining?*
- Keep the End in View*
- How can you be successful?*

Beginning Stages (Understanding the task)

- Make a list of basics concepts students need to know*

- Examples Include (but not limited to): Basic understanding of the Hip/Hop industry

- Basic understanding of rhyming schemes*
- Understanding of different artists*
- How to articulate words*
- How to mold words to be expressive and for your audience to receive a message*
- Understanding of Stage presence*
- Proper Speed of vocals*
- Proper Pitch of vocals*

- Devise general questions to ask students about what Hip-Hop is, it's history and how to approach composing it.*

-Examples Include (but not limited to): What is Rap? Who Raps? Where do you think Rap originated? Where is Rap performed? Where can we locate beats to rap over? Are there different forms of Rap? What sorts of emotions are associated with Rap? Etc.

****These Questions allow for student self-learning. They are generic questions to get the students thinking about the topic without the teacher supplying the answer. In addition they also help the student scaffold ways in which to approach the topic, such as: where to research, what to look for in their research, who to look for in there research, and how to write.***

Beginning Stages (Composing)

- Begin by searching for a beat that is appropriate*
- Figure out a specific topic to write about*
- Write down words that relate to the topic and give a brief description as to why they are important.*
- Find rhyming words to go with you topic.*

Middle Stages

- Once you have done your research and you have brief ideas of what you want to say, devise an outline that is coherent in the way you which to speak.*
- Once your outline is complete beging memorizing the beat*
- Once the beat is memorized you can do one of two things:*
 - A.)Begin writing as the beat is playing and back track when necessary*
 - B.) Write with the beat memorized in your head.*

**Some say that writing to the beat can impact the way in which you write and it wont be as meaningful.*

However, I found in this tactic that it really helped me when I had writers block and didn't know what to say. I think that either of the two options are great ways to approach it.

- At the end of this stage you should have a rough draft of lyrics*

Ending Stages

- Editing of the rough draft to its final form*
- Run-through of final form*
- Exhibiton of learning through a "Music Video" or in class performance*
- Self-Assessment of work.*

Questions to Check for understanding:

- What did you learn?*
- What Resonated with you?*
- If you were the teacher,h ow would you approach a topic like this?*
- Did you have fun?*
- What did you like and why?*
- What didn't you like and why?*
- What would you like to see done differently if we were to do this again?*