

The Social Construction of Hip Hop and Rap Music
Position Paper
Due: October 3, 2004

15% of final grade.

Typed, double-spaced, one-inch margins, numbered pages, 12-point font.

As stated in the syllabus: “The grading of this assignment will stress proper essay, paragraph and sentence structure, rhetorical effectiveness and the use of evidence.” I am going to look for clear and comprehensive thesis statements, strong and complete introduction and conclusion paragraphs, transition sentences, and logical analysis. As always, I expect you to follow a standard citation format, and abide by the Honor Code.

Question:

How did specific institutions, people, practices, and norms help to foster the idea that XX is superior to YY?

Choose one of the following pairs (to fill in XX and YY):

Pair one: Rap performed by men vs. Female raps.

Pair two: Rap performed by African Americans vs. Anglo raps.

Pair three: Rap from NY vs. Regional rap (e.g., LA, Phili, Chicago).

Pair four: Rap vs. Hip Hop. (Or, vice-versa: Hip Hop vs. Rap.)

In your answer, please define the two groups you are comparing, and use specific examples to illustrate how they are viewed differently. In your comparison, please note specific similarities and differences between the two kinds of performances/performers. Finally, speculate on the consequences of this evaluation system for present and future performers. Be specific and **reasoned** in your speculation.

Your examples should *primarily* be drawn from the course readings and discussion. You may *supplement* these with examples from other sources (personal experience, other readings, other classes, etc.).