

Hip-Hop: Beyond Beats & Rhymes

Define the following words and phrases before viewing video:

- thug
- misogynistic
- homophobic
- frailty
- hyper-masculine posturing
- commercially viable
- homoeroticism
- denigrate
- fronting
- caricature
- subservient

1. What does it mean to be “a man” according to many hip-hop lyrics?
2. Why do men in the hip hop community feel the need to be so tough and hard?
3. When was hip-hop created? Did messages of “old school” hip-hop differ from those of more recent hip-hop and rap videos of today?
4. What kind of power does hip-hop glorify?
5. What does the movie say about who men pick their fights with and who they don't pick their fights with?
6. What does it mean to sound (or be) de-sensitized to violence?
7. What does the film say about why women are portrayed in a degrading way?
8. What does the film say about where the degrading message about women came from?
9. What is the taboo about homosexuality in hip-hop? Where did this taboo come from?
10. What kind of topics do the rappers say will get a deal? Have these topics changed over time?
11. What roles does the film claim that the media want rappers to represent?
12. What happened at the same time as gangster rap became the main rap product?