

Hip Hop History and Culture  
Spring 2013  
AFPRL 290  
Prof. Williams

### Comparison Paper

For this assignment, choose two songs to compare and contrast from different periods in hip hop.

- One must be from **before 1996**;
- The other must be **after 1996**
- They must be **from different artists**.

You should think about specific points of similarity and difference between the songs. Some starting points to consider are the following:

- What are the styles and how do they differ?
- What is the difference in content?
- How does each reflect or challenge the prevailing attitudes of the time?
- What is commercial impact / success of each?
- How did critics regard each release?
- How does each reflect the point of view or artistic philosophy of the artist?

### Topic and Approach

You should be as specific as possible in your comparisons and use quotes or examples to support your points. Use separate paragraphs to develop specific points and use examples from songs to elaborate on them.

### Format:

Papers should be between 1,250-1,500 words in length (not including works cited page), typed double space, 12 point Times font (this is 12-point Times) and 1" margins. **Papers should be submitted via e-mail (ONLY) as MS Word files.** Please pay close attention to format, punctuation, and style.

### Sources and citations

If necessary, citations from outside sources should be done using the Modern Language Association (MLA) format, which is standard for the humanities or the American Psychological Association APA format, which is common in social sciences. All sources should be listed on a works cited page at the end of the paper. See the Hunter College's writing center and the Purdue University OWL (online) for more in-depth assistance on the citation formats. You are expected to use sources appropriate for college-level research. In summary, mainstream news/magazine articles, books, and scholarly journals (including ones retrieved through internet databases) are fine. **Not** acceptable are Wikipedia, random websites/ blogs, self-help books, religious texts (Bible, Qu'ran, etc.),

Facebook entries, self-published books and zines, etc. If in doubt, *ask me*. Popular hip hop magazines such as *The Source*, *XXXL*, etc are fine as is the *Village Voice* newspaper. *Billboard* magazine is a good source for sales info. Note: *Sources cited in Wikipedia are often helpful*. Start there and see who they cite. **Papers with improperly cited sources will be penalized.**

**Deadline:** Hard copies are due Friday, May 9<sup>th</sup> by midnight at my e-mail: [hwi0002@hunter.cuny.edu](mailto:hwi0002@hunter.cuny.edu). I will respond that I have received it. (Probably the next day.) Late papers will be penalized 1/4 letter grade per day late. Papers not handed in at all will fail.

**Grading:** Will be on the scale of A-F and based on the following:

- Clarity of thesis and how well it is presented/ defended
- Thoroughness of explanation and use of examples
- Clarity and style of writing
- Mechanics (punctuation, spelling, correct word choice)
- Proper use of sources (including citations).

Questions? E-mail me at: [hwi0002@hunter.cuny.edu](mailto:hwi0002@hunter.cuny.edu) or see me in my office hours (After class Monday/Wed until 8:30, Hunter West 1732: or by appointment)