

**Rough: Tuesday,  
May, 15 2012**

## ALBUM PAPER

**Final: Tuesday  
May, 22 2012**

The following is a list of the 24 FIVE MIC albums as awarded by The Source magazine. A council of deejays, on air radio hosts, and music directors rate albums and five Mic's is the highest honor an album can get (<http://home.fuse.net/ButchGibson/5mic.htm>). For a bit of info on these albums, go to: [http://rateyourmusic.com/lists/list\\_view/list\\_id\\_is\\_1761](http://rateyourmusic.com/lists/list_view/list_id_is_1761).

2Pac - <i>All Eyes On Me</i>	LL Cool J - <i>Radio</i>
2Pac - <i>Me Against The World</i>	Main Source - <i>Breaking Atoms</i>
A Tribe Called Quest - <i>Low End Theory</i>	Mobb Deep - <i>The Infamous</i>
A Tribe Called Quest - <i>People's Instinctive Travels Through The Paths of Rhythm</i>	N.W.A. - <i>Straight Outta Compton</i>
BDP - <i>By All Means Necessary</i>	Nas - <i>Illmatic</i>
BDP - <i>Criminal Minded</i>	Nas - <i>Stillmatic</i>
Beastie Boys - <i>License To Ill</i>	Notorious B.I.G. - <i>Life After Death</i>
Big Daddy Kane - <i>Long Live The Kane</i>	Notorious BIG - <i>Ready To Die</i>
Brand Nubian - <i>One For All</i>	Outkast - <i>Aquemini</i>
De La Soul - <i>De La Soul Is Dead</i>	Public Enemy - <i>It Takes A Nation Of Millions To Hold Us Back</i>
Dr. Dre - <i>2001</i>	Raekwon - <i>Built 4 Cuban Linx</i>
Dr. Dre - <i>The Chronic</i>	Run DMC - <i>Raising Hell</i>
EPMD - <i>Strictly Business</i>	Run DMC - <i>Run DMC</i>
Eric B. & Rakim - <i>Let The Rhythm Hit Em</i>	Scarface - <i>The Diary</i>
Eric B. & Rakim - <i>Paid In Full</i>	Scarface - <i>The Fix</i>
Geto Boys - <i>Grip It On That Over Level</i>	Slick Rick - <i>The Adventures Of Slick Rick</i>
Ice Cube - <i>Amerikkka's Most Wanted</i>	Snoop Dogg - <i>Doggystyle</i>
Ice Cube - <i>Death Certificate</i>	The D.O.C. - <i>No One Can Do It Better</i>
Jay-Z - <i>Reasonable Doubt</i>	The Fugees - <i>The Score</i>
Jay-Z - <i>The Blueprint</i>	Ultramagnetic M.C.s - <i>Critical Beatdown</i>
Jungle Brothers - <i>Straight Outta The Jungle</i>	Wu-Tang Clan - <i>Enter The 36 Chambers</i>

Your assignment is to listen to the album of your choosing and write a short paper describing it. There are many angles to write from, what I do not want is a review of the album. Instead, take it as an opportunity to answer some questions such as:

- Who is the artist? What assumptions might we make about his music based on his background? Are those assumptions valid? Did you hear the type of Hip-Hop you expected? What era in Hip-Hop history does this artist belong to? What is his/her/their legacy?
- What is the overall message of the album? What tracks and lines show this message? What is the purpose of this message? What is the legacy of the album? Why?
- What are the highlights of the album? What elements of the album speak to you? The beats, verses, subject-matter? Why
- What kind of tracks dominate the album? Which are diss, political, M.D.G., story, or another genre of song? Which track is most powerful? Why?
- Does this album promote a positive or negative form of Hip-Hop? Why?
- Consult any of the guiding questions on our wiki-page.

Please use proper citation when referencing songs.

- Indent lyrics 3 lines and over a half an inch on each side
- Separate song lines with a /
- Italicize lyrics
- Select justify text rather than align left, centered, or right.
- Footnote the selection and provide the source at the bottom of the page.
- Make it 11-point font, rather than 12.
- Use Ibid if you are using the same source as the last footnote.

See below for examples:

*No Malcolm X in my history text / Why is that? / Cause he tried to educate and liberate all blacks / Why is Martin Luther King in my book each week? / He told blacks, if they get smacked, turn the other cheek.<sup>1</sup>*

*As real as it seems the American dream / Ain't nothing but a calculated scheme / To keep us locked up shot up and back in chains / To deny us our future to rob our name / Kept our history a mystery, but now I see / The American dream wasn't meant for me.<sup>2</sup>*

*No one in the world loves me / I'm headed for danger / Don't trust strangers / Put one in the chamber / Whatever I'm feelin' is anger / Don't wanna make excuses / Cause this is how it is / What's the use? / Unless we're shootin' / No one notices the youth / It's just me against the world.<sup>3</sup>*

Essay Guidelines:

- 1) Typed, size 12-font, either in Times New Roman or Helvetica (like this.)
- 2) Double-spaced (like this list.)
- 3) Written by you - plagiarism will be met with a quick zero on the assignment.
- 4) No less than 5 pages long, no more than 7.
- 5) Take an interest - this is your education. Own it!

You will be graded on the rubric that is on the Wiki.

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<sup>1</sup> Tupac Shakur, "Words of Wisdom" 2Pacalypse Now (Interscope Records, 1992).

<sup>2</sup> 2Pac, "1 in 21 A Tupac Shakur Story" Panther Power (AIM Records, 1997).

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.