

Discussion: Tuesday  
June 6, 2012

## ASSIGNMENT

# X

Due: Friday  
June 1, 2012

The notion of Hip-hop as culture wasn't new to us before entering this course. We all had our ideas of what Hip-Hop was and wasn't. It became apparent as we went around the room during the first week of class that each person constructed a personal definition of Hip-hop through various interactions with Hip-hop: friends, television, news media, books, music, fashion, videos, parents etc. Since that first class, we have spent a considerable amount of timing learning the history of Hip-hop culture, likely deepening your understanding of Hip-hop. This online assignment attempts to investigate the distance between these two points.

**Between May 21st and June 1st**, you will be asked to record (preferably in real time) every instance where your day-to-day activities (work, school, pleasure, travel) intersect with Hip-hop culture. You will be asked to have a minimum of 40 interactions with Hip-Hop. An example is given below: (*note: interactions in class do not count.*)

Date	Location	Description
6/21/12	Hallway	Chris, in the hallway, is singing a Tyga song
6/22/12	TV	Watching a basketball game and a Drake song is played in the stadium
6/23/12	Web	Ad for new Big KRIT video is displayed on YouTube
6/25/12	In-car	I listen to the new Roots album and some J Dilla instrumentals
6/25/12	Mall	Shoe store has Hip-Hop music videos playing.

**On Wednesday, June 6th, we will have a Harkness discussion.** Potential topics include:

1. Relevancy to Hip-hop culture – was the culture represented as we've discussed in class (keeping in mind the origins of Hip-hop) or was there an ulterior motive?
2. Ability to interpret – was the element of Hip-hop easy to interpret? If not, why?
3. Context – What context was the element used? For instance, the inclusion of the Drake song during the basketball game was likely an attempt to appeal to younger viewers of basketball.

**Please read the following articles to prepare you for discussion:**

1. "Compa\$\$ionate Capitali\$m" – Village Voice by Ta-Nehisi Coates  
Russell \$immons wants to fatten the hip-hop vote—and maybe his wallet, too  
<http://villagevoice.com/issues/0401/coates.php>
2. "Keepin' It Unreal" -- Village Voice by Ta-Nehisi Coates  
\$elling the Myth of Blaçk Male Violencø, Long Past Its Expiration Date  
<http://villagevoice.com/issues/0323/coates.php>
3. "Hip-Hop Goes Commercial" Village Voice by Erik Parker  
"Rappers Give Madison Avenue a Run for Its Money"  
<http://villagevoice.com/issues/0237/parker.php>
4. "How Cultural Imperialism has Hurt Hip-hop" by Andrew Ryan  
[classweb.gmu.edu/ajryan/coopt.pdf](http://classweb.gmu.edu/ajryan/coopt.pdf)