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N****rs, Ghettos, Bitches: Multicultural Education vs. Hip- Hop Music

Abstract

Racism is an incubus that has haunted every culture in the United States since its inception. Today, aspects of the hip-hop genre embody that spirit by promoting self-hate through exploitation, misogyny, greed, and denigration of who Blacks are as a people. The hip-hop culture and its style of music has crossed all racial and culture barriers and has been deemed the music of the 21st century. Yet the hip-hop culture often cloaks itself with monolithic images very powerfully in television, magazines, and music videos.

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Much of the contemporary hip-hop music today has evolved from the violence of gangsta rap. Many hip-hop artists profess in their lyrics and videos to be simply speaking the truth about their realities; however these lyrics and images do not empower African Americans in these situations to get out. Instead the cycle of homicide, drugs, poverty, domestic violence, and AillS continues to manifest itself in the black community.

Some hip-hop artists have taken on the tools of oppression and become the oppressor by perpetuating historically negative images and messages that many Whites and others still hold true about African Americans. Part of these tools of oppression may have been invented as early as 1712.

This proposal will address how Willie Lynch's infamous 1712 letter is authenticated through the negative images and messages presented in hip-hop music and its effects on youth culture and multicultural education.

Presenter

Dr. Raphael C. Heaggans is the Director of Bluefield State College in Bluefield, West Virginia. He has served as a consultant for the Appalachian Educational Lab,oratory which is a part of the U. S. Department of Education, and he has taught in the public schools and at the collegiate level. He earned his doctorate degree in Curriculum and Instruction from West Virginia University specializing in English and Multicultural Education.