



**YOUR CHOICE:
CHOOSE WISELY**

HIP-HOP: VOICES FOR JUSTICE



INTRODUCTION

Hip-hop's origin is based in the art of storytelling. It used artistic elements such as emceeing, breakin and DJing to amplify the voices of marginalized people and resist oppressive systems.

Over the past 4 decades, hip-hop has become a billion-dollar global movement, so it's important to be aware of the patterns and trends that connect hip-hop across generations.

To this day, there are many injustices that hip-hop tackles through its music and activism. In this lesson, you will analyze and debate the role of social justice and social-awareness in hip-hop then and now.



SEL CONNECTION



Today, we will learn about "**Responsible Decision Making**" as it pertains to rappers using their platforms to speak up about social justice issues.

Note: Fans of the golden era of hip-hop often argue that the message in the new school hip-hop lyrics don't contain the same level of responsible decision making and social-awareness.





ICEBREAKER

QUOTE DISCUSSION





QUOTE DISCUSSION

Still, there is disagreement about how much power any kind of music can have over its listeners' thoughts and behavior. Teens and adults alike say society fails to recognize the intelligence of youth, who, they say, can differentiate between make-believe and reality. And for those children who cannot, they add, the burden of responsibility rests with the families who raised them—not on the music they celebrate."

- Why do you agree or disagree with this quote?
- Cite 1 or 2 examples from your personal life or the news to support your opinion.

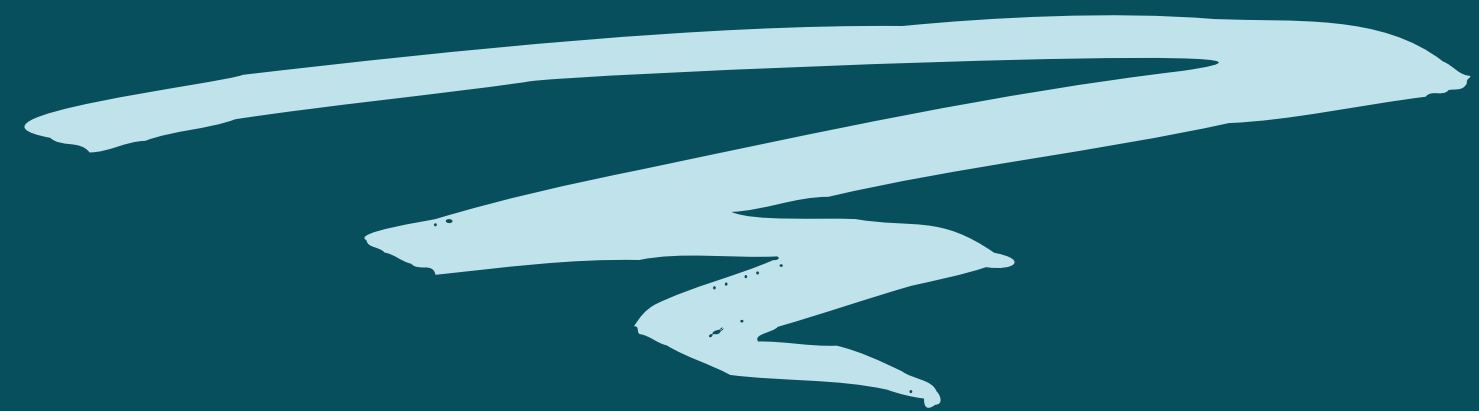




LESSON

PART ONE

BATTLE OF THE BEATS



LESSON: PART ONE



WATCH A VIDEO

BATTLE OF THE BEATS

- 1) Watch the video.
- 2) After watching the video, share how would you define social justice, social awareness and hip-hop.





BATTLE OF THE BEATS

Social Justice: (n.) ensuring all members of a society have access to wealth, opportunities, and privileges.

Social Awareness: (n.) the ability to understand and feel the needs of others, including those from diverse backgrounds and cultures.

Hip-Hop: (n.) based in the art of story-telling, it is a culture that uses artistic elements such as emceeing, breakin and D'Jin to amplify the voices of marginalized people and resist oppressive systems.



LESSON: PART ONE



TALK ABOUT IT

BATTLE OF THE BEATS

What examples can you share of hip-hop/rap music being used to raise social awareness or speak on social justice issues today?





BATTLE OF THE BEATS

Watch both videos.



LESSON: PART ONE



BATTLE OF THE BEATS

Utilize the notecatcher to reflect on the similarities between the songs and the imagery used.



“Fight the Power” was released in 1990.

“The Bigger Picture” was released in 2020.

- What do you notice about the imagery being used in each video?
- What message do you think is being delivered?
- What questions do you have after watching these video snippets?



NEW ME, WHO IS THIS?

- 1) Sit in a circle with space in the middle.
- 2) Grab a post-it and a pencil.
- 3) Do not write your name on the post-it. Be sure to use clear handwriting.



LESSON: PART ONE



WATCH A VIDEO

BATTLE OF THE BEATS

Watch Joey Bad A\$\$ perform “Head High”



LESSON: PART ONE

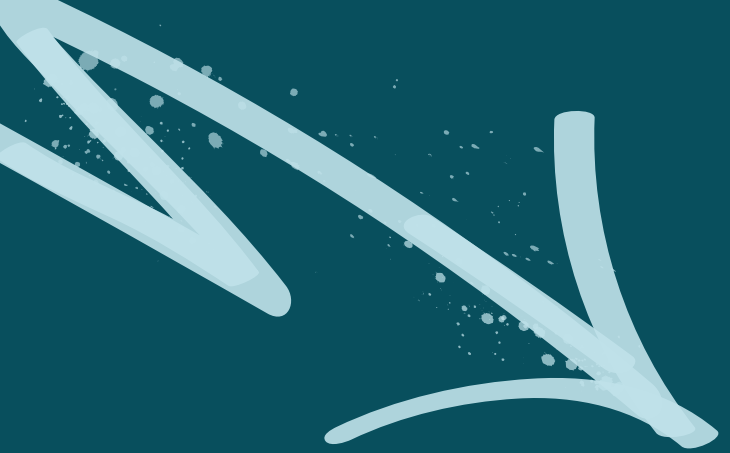


BATTLE OF THE BEATS

After watching the video, use the graphic organizer to respond to the following questions in groups of 4.

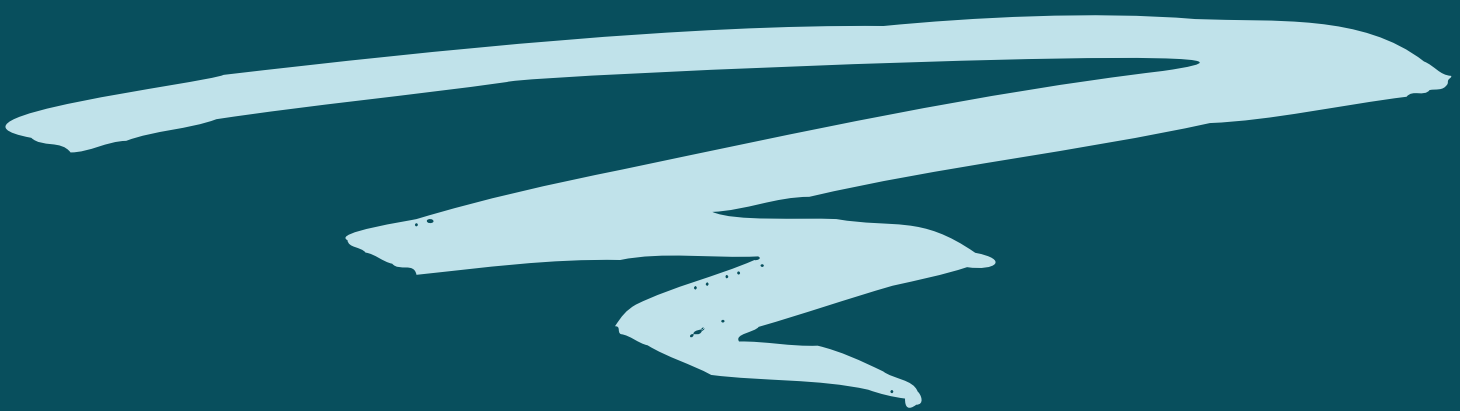
- What do you notice about the imagery being used in each video?
- What message do you think is being delivered?
- What questions do you have after watching this video?
- Did this performance go viral? Why or why not?





LESSON
PART TWO

PHILOSOPHICAL CHAIRS



LESSON: PART TWO

➤➤➤ GET MOVING!

PHILOSOPHICAL CHAIRS

- 1) As a class, split up into three sections — I agree, I don't agree, undecided.
- 2) A statement will be read aloud. Depending on whether you agree or disagree with the statement, move to one side of the room or the other.
- 3) From your spot, take turns defending your position.
You can switch sides of the room if you change your opinion about the statement.



PHILOSOPHICAL CHAIRS

“Still, there is disagreement about how much power any kind of music can have over its listeners’ thoughts and behavior. Teens and adults alike say society fails to recognize the intelligence of youth, who, they say, can differentiate between make-believe and reality. And for those children who cannot, they add, the burden of responsibility rests with the families who raised them—not on the music they celebrate.”



LESSON: PART TWO



PHILOSOPHICAL CHAIRS

- 1) Share your opinions on the statements, alternating between those who agree and disagree.
- 2) Invite the undecided to choose which side had the most compelling argument.
- 3) Complete the Exit Ticket.





DEBRIEF / EXTENSION





REFLECT

Reflect on the lyrics from your three favorite songs using the following reflection question:

- What message are these songs and / or videos sending to you?



EXTENSION



BRING AWARENESS

Write your own social justice song lyrics

OR

Collaboratively come up with a visual / video that speaks to an issue you want to bring awareness to.

