

Hip Hop IS/ AS Poetry

‘Every Soul is a Poem’
— Michael Franti



L3

**Your life is
dependent on
your relationship
with words.**

Jason Reynolds

Connections to literacy come in many forms. They come in forms such as hip-hop culture, rap lyrics, spoken word, poetry, and content that cover issues currently impacting students.

These types of formats and themes are powerful pathways toward engagement with the written and spoken word, toward self-exploration and expression, and toward arming the next generation with tools to incite change in their own lives, their communities, and the world.



<https://britannicalearn.com/blog/classroom-hip-hop-playlist/>

Method

1 Context

Scaffold context of the world before the universal internet/smartphone culture.

Television as the world's central point of information.

Scaffold note taking.

2 Listen individually

Students listen individually to 'Television the Drug of the Nation' by Michael Franti and the Disposable Heroes of Hiphoprisy. Individual listening allows for pace of understanding and recording of ideas/notes.

3 Pair discussion of thoughts about the song

4 Whole class feedback on the song

- Things they related to.
- Things they didn't understand/need clarification on.
- Similarities and differences between the ideas from 1992 to 30 years later in 2022.
- The central message thesis of the song.

5 Extended teaching

Extended teaching/instruction regarding language features in the song.

- Repetition
- Metaphor
- Rhyme
- Colloquial language
- Irony
- Neologism
- Oxymoron

6 Moment for integration of Hauora aspects of Social Sciences curriculum

Have the students experienced any of the negatives associated with the ubiquitous nature of the internet?

Is there anything in the song which resonates with them from this point of reference?

These thoughts can be the starting point for more discussion.

7 Scaffold essay writing skills

Students write about two language features of the song and how they helped or hindered Michael Franti's message. Incorporate their greater understanding of the central message of the song.

Summative assessment opportunity.

Curriculum links

English

Processes and strategies

Integrate sources of information, processes, and strategies with developing confidence to identify, form, and express ideas.

Ideas

Show a developing understanding of ideas within, across, and beyond texts.

Language features

Show a developing understanding of how language features are used for effect within and across texts.

Music

Understanding music – Sound arts in context

Identify and describe the characteristics of music associated with a range of sound environments, in relation to historical, social, and cultural contexts.

Explore ideas about how music serves a variety of purposes and functions in their lives and in their communities.

Compare and contrast 'Television the Drug of the Nation' by Michael Franti and the Disposable Heroes of Hiphoprisy with the experiences of their involvement with the WWW and social media.

Possible integration with Hauora aspects of Social Sciences curriculum.