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Hip Hop- Beyond Beats and Rhymes

Student's Name

Course

Institution

Instructor's Name

Date

³
Hip Hop- Beyond Beats and Rhymes

Question 1

Name

Address

Date: 26th July 2020.

To: Byron Hurt,

Film Director,

Address:

Date:

Dear Sir,

¹
RE: HIP HOP- BEYOND BEATS AND RHYMES RESPONSE

I am writing this letter in response to your ⁴documentary “Hip Hop: Beyond Beats and Rhymes.” The video is eye-opening when it comes to the content hip hop musician creates (Media Education Foundation 2006). From their explicit videos objectifying women to name-calling them, violence portrayal, drug abuse, and belittling fellow rappers by feminizing them. The hip hop culture up to date has not changed because the same themes are still being used today, and the lyrics have become even more explicit. The use of curse words and name callings has become normalized in society. However, not all hip hop artists are materialistic or misogynists. With the likes of Kendrick Lamar, Kanye West and J. Cole to mention a few have found their niche in the industry because their content is worth listening to since their music has a message. It is hard for the hip hop culture to change its nature because it is rooted in real-life

situations that the African American community goes through, especially those living in poor neighborhoods.

Yours Sincerely,

Question 2

The dialogue below is between me and ¹Byron Hurt, director and producer of “Hip Hop: Beyond Beats and Rhymes.”

Student’s name: Thank you for coming to the interview. You just premiered, “Hip Hop: Beyond Beats and Rhymes.” How has the response been so far?

Byron Hurt: Thank you for having me. Yes, we did premier our documentary early this week, and the response has been overwhelming so far. We have received both negative and positive responses, which was to be expected.

Student’s name: Do you believe the message you are pushing for will reach the targeted audiences? In this case, hip hop fanatics?

Byron Hurt: Yes, I do believe the message we are pushing for will reach even more people thanks to the digital platforms and technology advances.

Student’s name: What was the primary motive for this documentary?

Byron Hurt: We wanted to create awareness of what the hip hop music industry today portrays to educate the mass on the social injustices that the videos and lyrics showcase.

Student’s name: That is a great approach because you were once a hip hop lover yourself. Do you still listen to hip hop music?

Byron Hurt: Yes I still do listen to hip hop music but to only artists whose music speaks about social change such as Kendrick Lamar.

Student's name: That is very insightful. Thank you for your time. Any last words?

Byron Hurt: I would like to urge all up and coming hip hop artist to start afresh and not to follow this wave of hip hop music but to push for content that will benefit the community.

Question 3

Byron Hurt's key point of this documentary is that the hip hop culture is demoralizing because of sexism when it comes to women objectification, violence, rape, homophobia and hyper-masculinity. I agree with his sentiments because based on the film, a lot of people who were interviewed agreed that what ⁶ the hip hop culture portrays is harmful to society at large. ⁵ African American men in the hip hop culture are portrayed as aggressive, tough and more likely to engage in criminal activities. This, therefore, harms young men who are going through an identity crisis. They act tough so that they do not get belittled through name-calling.

Additionally, hip hop culture is an extension of the American culture from movies portraying violence and women objectification to playing violent video games. Initially, hip hop was used to talk about social issues African American community was going through before it became what it is now. Therefore it is going to be difficult for most hip hop artists to change their style and focus more on portraying social injustices happening in the society through their art because they will lose their loyal fans in the process.

Reference Cited

Media Education Foundation.

2006. ²*Hip Hop - Beyond Beats and Rhymes*. <https://fiu.kanopy.com/video/hip-hop>.

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