



Cover Letter

The best way that I learn is by seeing my task and working through it—I learn by doing. When I hear instructions, constructive criticism, or lessons, it is very difficult for me to retain the information given and implement it. For example, I love when my teachers give guided notes during class because I am able to see the key information on the screen and I know exactly what to write. Writing is a specific learning tool that is especially helpful to me—the simple act of writing something down helps me remember it ten times more than if I typed it. I think is very underrated in schools today. As a student, I put a lot of effort into my classes and genuinely want to put forth the best work I can. Earlier this semester I caught myself a few times turning in essays that were not entirely complete or were too vague to serve a significant purpose, which made me disappointed in myself because I have never been someone who is satisfied with mediocrity. Though this causes quite a bit more stress surrounding this class, I've been proud of myself for utilizing my time in class well. Particularly over the past couple weeks, I have been using every moment of work time given to my advantage. Normally, I can get distracted very easily and often find myself zoning out—not out of laziness, but I genuinely get so caught up in my thoughts that I forget where I am or what I am supposed to be doing. Since we ramped up the portfolio process, I have avoided getting caught in distracting conversations and I was surprised that I actually had made a lot of progress with just the time I found in class and throughout the day. For many major assignments I procrastinate until a day or two before the deadline, but for this portfolio I have been steadily progressing each day.

I have taken English 9 Honors, English 10 Honors and AP Language and Composition prior to this class. During AP Lang last year is when my writing and analysis became more sophisticated and I began to delve deeper into my topics. This class has taught me a lot about analyzing sources—not just for their obvious credibility but also determining their motivation/purpose, who the author is appealing to, how the author's situation is different from others, and how to establish a line of inquiry by pulling evidence and ideas from various texts. This is also the first class where I focused so much on revision and the metacognitive reflection process. I have practiced how to articulate what I am thinking and why I made the creative decisions that I did. This has helped me understand how to make my writing more effective, but I have also applied this process to my life in general. When thinking of my goals for the new year, I asked myself what from last year would I have changed to make it a better or happier year. I then boiled my answer down from a broad topic to a specific action or habit that was in my control to alter. I also use this to better understand my behavior by asking myself “why” questions until I get to the true root of the problem. In college, I will continue this metacognitive reflection process in all parts of my life. I feel prepared for college because I think that the expectations set by Mrs. Butterfield will be very similar to those of my future professors and I have had practice with crafting purposeful writing even when I am on a time crunch. When I look back to my writing before this semester, I am amazed by how much I have grown and how my writing has actually helped me learn more about myself as both a student and a person.

Writing Outcome 1 Reflection

Compose strategically for a variety of audiences and contexts, both within and outside the university.

The intended audience of the original text is oppressive (mainly white) people who are unaware of their role in the creation of hip-hop and the people who can relate to the struggles of greats like Biggie Smalls or of children in Senegal. I decided that I need to appeal to a broader audience than McBride in my reinterpretation. The original text is mainly going to be accessed by scholars or students who are going out of their way to find information on hip-hop and social change. By reinterpreting the academic texts into a blog post, I made McBride's purpose and my claim more easily accessible. It also made the information easier, quicker, and more interesting to read because I condensed the text into simple points and added related images. In my reinterpretation, not only are general internet-users added to my audience, but so are activists. I added these audiences because I think that McBride's text can serve many purposes. Two of which are to inspire people to enact social change and to bring awareness to people of their involvement—be it positive or negative—in rap culture. It is important that I composed for a variety of audiences because it made my work more available and relatable to more people, which further spreads my message.

Recognize how different elements of a rhetorical situation matter for the task at hand and affect the options for composing and distributing texts.

My claim is very similar to McBride because we both believe that hip-hop can be used as a platform for people to express their frustration and unite people, but it has become extremely commercialized. I used James McBride's writing to help me form my own idea about hip-hop culture and I kept this claim in mind when composing my blog post because I wanted to remind people of the passion that initially drove the rise of hip-hop, not the money. As a white millennial, it is not as easy to relate to the founders of hip-hop as it is for James McBride, a black man who lived in the same area as some of the greats. Although we come from different backgrounds, we both recognized hip-hop as a social movement--of which I have seen many as a millennial. Once I viewed hip-hop as more than just a genre of music, I was able to reinterpret McBride's text to apply the principles of hip-hop's evolution to the initiation of a crusade for social change.

Coordinate, negotiate, and experiment with various aspects of composing—such as genre, content, conventions, style, language, organization, appeals, media, timing, and design—for diverse rhetorical effects tailored to the given audience, purpose, and situation.

To make the content more appealing and accessible to various audiences, I used colloquial terms. I also changed from conventional academic style and organization to fit the more flexible blog template. In a blog post, there are ample pictures and visual appeals that emphasize important parts of the post. For example, I bolded the font for all steps to draw the reader's attention. Since blog posts are found on the internet, people expect to be entertained and visually stimulated. Another major part of the internet is accessible sharing channels. This is why I included the "share" bar at the top of the article; people want to share interesting articles with other people through their favored (social) media platform. This is also very beneficial to my purpose, which is to spread my message and James McBride's message. To make my blog post stand out against the thousands of other search results, I made my title shocking and intriguing: "How to Explode the World." This headline appeals to my audience because it adds drama with the use of "explode," it is applicable to anyone because it references "the World," and it adds some mystery because the reader is not entirely certain what they will be reading when they click on the post. This is intentional because if the title tells me exactly what the article contains, I don't feel the need to read it. However, if the title is dramatic and gives only a taste of the content, I am much more intrigued.

Assess and articulate the rationale for and effects of composition choices.

Considering mood, I made my reinterpretation a bit sarcastic (as shown in the title), but I maintained a level of seriousness that I felt was appropriate for the importance and passion attached to hip-hop. This worked cohesively with McBride's text because he included humor but still respected hip-hop and its influential artists. The key word I used in my blog post was "culture". I believe it is important to emphasize that hip-hop is not just a genre of music. It is a lifestyle and a culture that has its own place in not just American history, but African history as well. Hip-hop is a blend of dance, song, poetry, fashion, and other forms of self-expression. This is an idea that was also expressed through McBride's text.

How to Explode the World



by [REDACTED]



Pin



6



Tweet



Share



Email

1. Gather Inspiration from Others

It is best to draw from the ideas and cultures of others when starting a movement. For example, the hip-hop culture was inspired by West African griots, slave songs, jazz music, rock and roll, funk, and beat poets.



Once you find your inspiration, don't just speak your mind—**SCREAM IT!** Be loud and proud, smack your oppressors in the face with your passion and intensity. Rappers are unapologetic and are not afraid to make themselves known.

2. Be Brutal...ly Honest

When you *scream* your mind, make sure what you are saying is important, necessary, and **honest**. Even when rap artists are harsh and violent, their pain and ferocity is genuine. Their raw talent and emotions are what lights a fire inside those who listen to their artistry.

3. Find Your Peeps

Find people with a similar vision and **combine forces!** If two heads are better than one, two activists are better than a single dreamer. Hip-hop elevated to a new level once disc jockeys, dancers, and masters of ceremonies joined to create a hip-hop cultural experience.



Writing Outcome 2 Reflection

Reading, analyzing, and synthesizing a diverse range of texts and understanding the situations in which those texts are participating.

I read three different texts that are all from diverse backgrounds and perspectives. McBride's *Hip-Hop Planet* is a credible primary source from a university textbook that is full of history, both personal and rap-related.

Robinson's essay was not as reliable as McBride's text and did not seem as well-informed, but it still had some useful points and it is helpful to explore different sources.

Using reading and writing strategies to craft research questions that explore and respond to complex ideas and situations.

I think my line of inquiry is very solid and I crafted research questions that will generate complex answers and ideas. My questions all directly relate to my topic and claim, but they attempt to lead my research down different avenues. For example, I ask how hip-hop has evolved into the massive culture it is today, but also who stood to gain from corrupting the art with money and meaningless violence.

Gathering, evaluating, and making purposeful use of primary and secondary materials appropriate for the writing goals, audience, genre, and context.

For my primary source, I evaluated McBride's text. This is a very credible source because it recognizes the writer's credentials, is printed in a university's textbook, and has no fundamental errors. McBride, like Comissiong, grew up in the streets where hip-hop was born, which allows him to appeal to many audiences and establish undeniable credibility and can relate to people who grew up in a similar home situation. He also recognizes that he did not initially appreciate or even tolerate rap music, which is also something that many people in the U.S., and in the world, can relate to. For my secondary sources, I used Robinson's and Comissiong's texts. I determined the audiences of these texts can be widespread since they are published directly on the internet, but their intended audiences are a different from each other. Robinson is mainly writing for college professors and students, which makes me question if his motivation and purpose are genuinely to examine hip-hop culture, or if he is writing simply because he wants to get credit for the class. Comissiong, on the other hand, The goal of these texts is to educate, which is also my goal for my MA 2. These texts are written in academic prose, but I want to gather sources that are a bit more informal because they can show a new perspective that could even be rawer than a college essay I found. McBride's text supports my claim the most because I used his writing to help me form my own idea about hip-hop culture, but also because McBride blends his life experiences with the evolution of hip-hop. Most importantly, McBride takes a generally unbiased approach in his writing that allowed me to take the information given and craft my own claim.

Creating a "conversation"—identifying and engaging with meaningful patterns across ideas, texts, experiences, and situations.

I included a section in my proposal that identified and compared the audiences between the texts. In my annotated bibliography, I compared the authors' rhetorical situations and how this helped or hindered their ability to appeal to their intended (and secondary) audiences. With Comissiong and McBride, I found many connections with their backgrounds, intended audience, and use of personal experience as evidence that established credibility. However, where McBride takes a rather unbiased approach, Comissiong is very expressive of his personal opinion and in certain parts of the text he can even come across as prejudiced towards whites. These parts of his writing seem more like a rant than an essay, which makes me slightly question his credibility.

Using citation styles appropriate for the genre and context.

I used correct MLA8 citations in alphabetical order and with annotations, but my initial annotations were not substantial enough to fully hit this bullet point. My annotations addressed the credibility and usefulness of the source, but I added more commentary about the rhetorical situations of each source with a focus on both the intended audience and the secondary audiences. I also elaborated on the credibility of each sources, what I found to be helpful, and whether the source supported my claim.

SA 2.2: Multimodal Project Proposal

Evolution of Hip-Hop Proposal

Topic

Hip-Hop Culture: Hip-Hop has become more than just a style of music. It is a way of life, a culture, for all kinds of people. The current issue is how hip-hop has been corrupted in a way that many have lost sight of the original purposes for it: personal expression and social change.

Line of Inquiry

- How has hip-hop evolved from a genre of music to a culture?
- When did money/fame become such a big part of it?
- Why would people want to remove the money aspect?
- Who stood to gain/lose from the commercialization of this culture?
- Why do people dislike rap music?
- How is hip-hop/rap perceived, compared to other music genres?

Claim

Hip-Hop is a platform for people to express themselves and their struggles, but it has become so commercialized that it has lost much of its original purpose. This loss has resulted in violence, ignorance, and polarization.

Roadmap

I will reinterpret preexisting works of art to show the evolution of hip-hop and how it has been influenced by various people and occurrences. Since hip-hop is commonly experienced through hearing, I will convey my message through visual art to show how hip-hop is not mono-dimensional and frequently alters people's expectations.

Sources

- *Hip-Hop Planet* by James McBride
- "The Effects of Commercialization on the Perception of Hip Hop Culture and Black Culture in Mainstream Culture in the United States" by Chris Robinson
- "How Hip Hop Was Bought and Rap Was Sold" by Solomon Comissiong

Audience

These texts all can appeal to a variety of audiences. They seek to educate white people of all ages and people of color who are unaware of the history behind rap. Since *Hip-Hop Planet* is from the point-of-view of someone who lived in the same setting that hip-hop was born, he can appeal best to both audiences because he is extremely credible, but also recognizes that he did not initially love the music, which many people can relate to.

Writing Outcome

This project will meet Writing Outcome 2 because it is closely related to research and relies heavily on properly gathered and analyzed texts from diverse sources. It also addresses proper citations, which are a requirement for this assignment. The annotated bibliography will be able to address many of the key points of Writing Outcome 2, even if they are already hit in the assignment itself.

Annotated Bibliography

- Comissiong, Solomon. "How Hip Hop Was Bought and Rap Was Sold." *Rap Rehab*, 26 June 2016, raprehab.com/how-hip-hop-was-bought-and-rap-was-sold/.

Growing up in the early 1990s, Solomon Comissiong experienced first-hand the blossoming of hip-hop. Hip-hop originated in black and Latino communities, but Comissiong believes it has been "pimped out" and commoditized by largely white-owned corporations for a massive profit. The downside of this being that the rebellious, "Fight The Power" nature has been silenced by the power structure. Comissiong's immediate audience is black and Latino people, whom he frequently refers to. He often states that America is full of white supremacy and racist culture, which potentially alienates white people from his audience. His audience is also people who are interested in rap, in part because Comissiong's article is published on a rap website but also because he references many famous rappers that fans will recognize and connect to. I believe that Solomon Comissiong's purpose is to detail the history of hip-hop with the addition of his personal experience with the culture.

This source provides ample historical evidence and examples that can help give me a better idea of life during the early stages of hip-hop. However, Comissiong is very expressive of his personal opinion and in certain parts of the text he can even come across as prejudiced towards whites. These parts of his writing seem more like a rant than an essay, which makes me question his credibility. The website itself is not very well-known and looks very rudimentary. This does not entirely discredit the source but simply makes it a bit more questionable than a text like McBride's *Hip-Hop Planet*, which is published in a college English textbook. Regarding conventions, this article has little to no noticeable grammatical errors—unlike Robinson's text.

- McBride, James. *Hip-Hop Planet*. National Geographic, 2007.

In *Hip-Hop Planet*, James McBride describes his personal relationship with hip-hop music, while also documenting the evolution of hip-hop and how it impacted the world. McBride believes that hip-hop can be used as a platform for people to express their frustration and unite people, but it has become extremely commercialized. McBride is a black man who can relate to the racial struggles of the founding fathers of hip-hop. The purpose of this text is to inform people of the history and importance of hip-hop, but the author also wants people to understand how society has taken a raw art and commercialized it for its own gain. The intended audience of this text is oppressive (mainly white) people who are unaware of their role in the creation of hip-hop and the people who can relate to the

struggles of rappers. The secondary audience of this text is college students that read it as a part of class material.

McBride's text supports my claim the most because I used his writing to help me form my own idea about hip-hop culture, but also because McBride blends his life experiences with the evolution of hip-hop. Most importantly, McBride takes a generally unbiased approach in his writing that allowed me to take the information given and craft my own claim.

This is a very credible source because it recognizes the writer's credentials, is printed in a university's textbook, and has no fundamental errors. McBride, like Comissiong, grew up in the streets where hip-hop was born, which allows him to appeal to many audiences and establish undeniable credibility and can relate to people who grew up in a similar home situation. He also recognizes that he did not initially appreciate or even tolerate rap music, which is also something that many people in the U.S., and in the world, can relate to.

- Robinson, Chris A., "The Effects of Commercialization on the Perception of Hip Hop Culture and Black Culture in Mainstream Culture in the United States" (2011). Electronic Theses and Dissertations. 554.

Similarly to McBride's text, the audience of Robinson's writing is mainly college professors and college students because Robinson is a college student whose work is published on the website of his university (University of Denver). Robinson's main purpose is to examine how the perception of a sub-culture, like hip-hop, can be altered by a dominant culture. Since Robinson's writing is clearly an assignment that has been posted to the university's website, I question whether his motivation to write is because he genuinely is interested in examining hip-hop or if he is just trying to get credit for his college class. The essay explores the belief that the commercialization of hip-hop culture has resulted in its "assimilation" into mainstream culture of the U.S. and the use of African-American culture, including rap music, as a marketing tool.

Though this article seemed well-researched, there were conventional and stylistic errors that impeded the reader's ability to take this essay seriously. The writer used very vague and sometimes unrelated phrases in his thesis and claims. Grammatical errors also discredited the writer, which included the mentioning of a certain rap group in junction with a highly controversial curse word that could potentially alienate a large audience. This essay is not as reliable as McBride's text and does not seem as well-informed, but it is helpful to explore different sources and perspectives.

Writing Outcome 3 Reflection

I worked to craft a persuasive, complex, inquiry-driven argument that serves a global purpose.

Considering, incorporating, and responding to different points of view while developing one's own position

I used James McBride's *Hip-Hop Planet* to help me form my own opinion on the commercialization of hip-hop culture. McBride grew up as a black man on the streets of New York during the beginning of rap, which is very different from my upbringing. McBride's unique perspective helped me to consider different aspects of hip-hop culture that I had never experienced, which in turn helped me to develop my own position. When reading my sources, I entered each text with an open mind to the potential ideas of people with new perspectives. For example, Chris Robinson at the University of Denver wrote with less obvious passion than I had read in the essays by Solomon Comissiong and James McBride. I usually am drawn to reading works by passionate and lively writers, so I had to make a conscious decision to put just as much effort and consideration into examining and responding to Robinson's point of view. After reading the various texts, I focused on how hip-hop has been exploited for the profit of major corporations, an idea that was actually introduced to me by the work of Chris Robinson.

Engaging in analysis—the close scrutiny and examination of evidence, claims, and assumptions—to explore and support a line of inquiry

Everyone has their own taste in music, but many people view rap music more negatively than any other genre. I kept this truth in mind when writing my essay because I think that many people, including my intended audience, will automatically brush away the topic of hip-hop because they believe it to be circulating violent, disrespectful, and blatantly crude messages.

When examining my three sources, I scrutinized and analyzed their use of evidence and their claim, along with their overall credibility and usefulness. Growing up in the early 1990s, Solomon Comissiong experienced first-hand the blossoming of hip-hop. Hip-hop originated in black and Latino communities, but Comissiong believes it has been “pimped out” and commoditized by largely white-owned corporations for a massive profit. The downside of this being that the rebellious, “Fight The Power” nature has been silenced by the power structure. This source provides ample historical evidence and examples that can help give me a better idea of life during the early stages of hip-hop. However, Comissiong is very expressive of his personal opinion and in certain parts of the text he can even come across as prejudiced towards whites. These parts of his writing seem more like a rant than an essay, which makes me question his credibility. This does not entirely discredit the source but simply makes it a bit more questionable than a text like McBride's *Hip-Hop Planet*, which is published in a college English textbook. Regarding conventions, this article has little to no noticeable grammatical errors—unlike Robinson's text. This brings me to Chris Robinson's writing, which has quite a few conventional errors that imply a lack of effort and lack of genuine interest in the topic. Though this article seemed well-researched, the aforementioned errors impeded the reader's ability to take this essay seriously. The writer also used very vague and sometimes unrelated phrases in his thesis and claims. This essay is not as reliable as McBride's text and does not seem as well-informed, but it is helpful to explore different sources and perspectives. Finally, McBride's text was the most reliable and the most helpful to my line of inquiry. This is a very credible source because it recognizes the writer's credentials, is printed in a university's textbook, and has no fundamental errors. “McBride, like Comissiong, grew up in the streets where hip-hop was born, which allows him to appeal to many audiences and establish undeniable credibility and can relate to people who grew up in a similar home situation. He also recognizes that he did not initially appreciate or even tolerate rap music, which is also something that many people in the U.S., and in the world, can relate to.” The intended audience of this text is oppressive (mainly white) people who are unaware of their role in the creation of hip-hop and the people who

can relate to the struggles of rappers. The secondary audience of this text is college students that read it as a part of class material.

Understanding and accounting for the stakes and consequences of various arguments for diverse audiences within ongoing conversations and contexts

If the original purpose of hip-hop is lost, hip-hop will be engulfed in the corrupt corporations that have already made a massive profit. “The current issue is how hip-hop has been corrupted in a way that many have lost sight of the original purpose for it; personal expression and social change. Hip-Hop is a platform for people to express themselves and their struggles, but it has become so commercialized that it has caused unnecessary verbal and physical violence and vulgarity.” Since my multimodal project reaches a broad audience of students when it is posted in the classroom, I have to be selective in how I portray my message. The classroom is a great way for people to share ideas, but it has become very easy for words to offend or be taken out of context. Redefining social structure is also a highly intense current issue, which means that I have to be more careful about how I approach the subject of rap culture, especially regarding social change.

Designing/organizing with respect to the demands of the genre, situation, audience, and purpose.

For my multimodal project, I chose to contrast two artists from different eras and “use preexisting works of art to show the evolution of hip-hop and how it has been influenced by various people and occurrences.” By comparing these artists and art pieces, I was able to emphasize the change in hip-hop culture over time. These two rappers “have their own rhetorical situations, which is evident in their lyrics and style.” Since hip-hop is commonly experienced through hearing, “I decided to convey my message through visual art to show how hip-hop is not mono-dimensional and it frequently alters people’s expectations.”

Since music relies largely on the actual song lyrics, I organized the lyrics of each rap artist around their portrait to illustrate both the differences between the diction and to demonstrate rappers taking ownership of their words. By clearly displaying the words of both Biggie Smalls and Lil Uzi Vert, the viewer is able to see how rap and hip-hop have changed over time. Biggie’s story is one of a “struggling journey from the rough streets through hip-hop,” that ends with a successful and beloved man who died too early. On the other hand, Lil Uzi Vert seems incapable of writing about anything but acquiring a ridiculous amount of money and abusively having sex with girls, delivering crude lyrics and harsh profanity. These aspects of their music display their different backgrounds and situations, but also clues the listener in to their audience and purpose. Uzi Vert seems to be appealing to young men with his excessive profanity and frequent mention of dominant sexual relations with women. The idea of having lots of money and sex is very appealing to young men, making them feel cool—for lack of a better word—and powerful. Biggie Smalls appeals to young kids, especially those living in the “hood” or on the streets, by spreading his “started from the bottom” success story. Lots of kids, teens, and young adults can feel like they have no one or nothing to turn to when home life is bad, they are financially struggling, or they live in an unsafe area. Biggie raps about working hard at what you love and resisting the pull of the lucrative crime that is often present in low-income neighborhoods.

The Commercialization Of Hip-Hop

Hip-Hop has become more than just a style of music. It is a way of life, a culture, for all kinds of people. The current issue is how hip-hop has been corrupted in a way that many have lost sight of the original purpose for it; personal expression and social change. Hip-Hop is a platform for people to express themselves and their struggles, but it has become so commercialized that it has caused unnecessary verbal and physical violence and vulgarity.

This project will meet Writing Outcome 3 because it considers and incorporates other perspectives, but still develops an independent position on the issue at hand. This project also relies on the acquirement of useful sources and analyzing their rhetorical situations. Hip-hop is a major current issue, which makes the stakes and consequences of my creation even more important. With the medium of my project being visual art, my entire project consists of designing and organizing my components to meet my writing goals. The annotated bibliography will be able to address many of the key points of Writing Outcome 3, even if they are already hit in the assignment itself.

For my multimodal project, I chose to incorporate preexisting works of art to show the evolution of hip-hop and how it has been influenced by various people and occurrences. Since hip-hop is commonly experienced through hearing, I decided to convey my message through visual art to show how hip-hop is not mono-dimensional and it frequently alters people's expectations. I used images of two rappers from the shoulders up because the defining aspects of a person's appearance occur above the neck. I then spliced the portraits of the artists to make the comparison even more clear and defined.

I chose to compile two artists from different eras because I wanted to show the change in hip hop culture over time. These two rappers have their own rhetorical situations, which is evident in their lyrics and style. I chose to write the lyrics around the artist's portrait to illustrate the stark differences between them and to demonstrate rappers taking ownership of their words.

In music, lyrics are everything. They are the most important part of any musical composition and they help the listener gather an idea of who the artist is. My project effectively communicates my message because it clearly displays the differences between the two rappers and their lyrical styles. My format of placing their faces and lyrics side-by-side reinforces this idea of comparison. My project can be quickly viewed and interpreted, which is an advantage of using a physical, static medium. In mediums like a commercial or brochure, it takes more time and energy to see and understand the meaning of the project. Since I want my message to reach many people, particularly teenagers with short attention spans, it is most appropriate for my medium to cater to the

fast-paced audience. Lil Uzi Vert has very crude lyrics that are solely about acquiring a ridiculous amount of money while degrading and having sex with girls, especially if they already have a boyfriend. Biggie Smalls (Notorious B.I.G.) still has a few lyrics that involve profanity, but his songs are mainly about his struggling journey from the rough streets through hip-hop. Biggie even includes lyrics celebrating classy women and life itself, neither of which are even mentioned by Lil Uzi Vert. While Biggie's music tells his story of a young man who was saved by rap music to become a successful and beloved idol, Uzi Vert's music seems incapable of delivering a verse without a demeaning or superficial message.

My project can appeal to many different audiences. I seek to bring a voice to people of all colors who love hip-hop/rap, but also to educate and bring awareness to people who have no prior interest in or knowledge of hip-hop culture. Many people do not notice or pay attention to the vulgar and hateful words that are poured into our ears by modern rappers. What we think, we become. This issue is very important to me because I believe that music is a beautiful form of expression and is very personal. Hip-hop is a poetic genre, even though it has gotten a bad "rap".

The Commercialization of Hip-Hop: An Annotated Bibliography

Comissiong, Solomon. "How Hip Hop Was Bought and Rap Was Sold." *Rap Rehab*, 26 June 2016

Growing up in the early 1990s, Solomon Comissiong experienced first-hand the blossoming of hip-hop. Hip-hop originated in black and Latino communities, but Comissiong believes it has been "pimped out" and commoditized by largely white-owned corporations for a massive profit. The downside of this being that the rebellious, "Fight The Power" nature has been silenced by the power structure. Comissiong's immediate audience is black and Latino people, whom he frequently refers to. He often states that America is full of white supremacy and racist culture, which potentially alienates white people from his audience. His audience is also people who are interested in rap, in part because Comissiong's article is published on a rap website but also because he references many famous rappers that fans will recognize and connect to. I believe that Solomon Comissiong's purpose is to detail the history of hip-hop with the addition of his personal experience with the culture.

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This is a very credible source because it recognizes the writer's credentials, is printed in a university's textbook, and has no fundamental errors. McBride, like Comissiong, grew up in the streets where hip-hop was born, which allows him to appeal to many audiences and establish undeniable credibility and can relate to people who grew up in a similar home situation. He also recognizes that he did not initially appreciate or even tolerate rap music, which is also something that many people in the U.S., and in the world, can relate to.

Robinson, Chris A., "The Effects of Commercialization on the Perception of Hip Hop Culture and Black Culture in Mainstream Culture in the United States" (2011). Electronic Theses and Dissertations. 554.

Similarly to McBride's text, the audience of Robinson's writing is mainly college professors and college students because Robinson is a college student whose work is published on the website of his university (University of Denver). Robinson's main purpose is to examine how the perception of a sub-culture, like hip-hop, can be altered by a dominant culture. Since Robinson's writing is clearly an assignment that has been posted to the university's website, I question whether his motivation to write is because he genuinely is interested in examining hip-hop or if he is just trying to get credit for his college class. The essay explores the belief that the commercialization of hip-hop culture has resulted in its "assimilation" into mainstream culture of the U.S. and the use of African-American culture, including rap music, as a marketing tool.

Though this article seemed well-researched, there were conventional and stylistic errors that impeded the reader's ability to take this essay seriously. The writer used very vague and sometimes unrelated phrases in his thesis and claims. Grammatical errors also discredited the writer, which included the mentioning of a certain rap group in junction with a highly controversial curse word that could potentially alienate a large audience. This essay is not as reliable as McBride's text and does not seem as well-informed, but it is helpful to explore different sources and perspectives.

Writing Outcome 4 Reflection

Engaging in a variety of (re)visioning techniques, including (re)brainstorming, (re)drafting, (re)reading, (re)writing, (re)thinking, and editing.

For this essay, I put in hours of repeating the entire creative process. I began the process in May 2017 and continued to revise through November of that year. I was constantly editing and (re)brainstorming my draft because I was constantly analyzing my writing and coming up with new ideas. Through all of my changes, either minor or major, I maintained my overall writing goal of displaying that I am worthy of being accepted into college and my purpose of getting accepted into college.

Giving, receiving, interpreting, and incorporating constructive feedback.

With my essay, I took a risk by portraying a time in my life that did not display me in the best light. To make sure this idea was appropriate for my genre and audience, I asked many of my peers to read my initial rough draft—which implored mainly stream-of-thought writing. I also asked a couple of my teachers to give me feedback on my idea because I wanted an adult perspective and I knew that they were well-versed in this subject.

I received lots of constructive feedback, so my next step was to sort through the suggestions to see what fit with my purpose, situation, and claim. Two of the best suggestions I received were to use italicized text when sharing my thoughts with the reader during the essay and to connect my rough experience/relationship with my mom back to how my character has developed immensely because of it.

Refining and nuancing composition choices for delivery to intended audiences in a manner consonant with the genre, situation, and desire rhetorical effects and meanings.

My desired audience was the admissions office at the college of my choice, but I knew that Mrs. Butterfield would be a secondary audience since I would be submitting my essay to her. Since both of my audiences also read a lot of essays, college application essays, I also decided to express my creativity by writing in a different style than I normally do and I chose a topic that most other people won't write about. There have been a lot of college application essay examples that take something insignificant and use it as a metaphor to display the writer's growth—a good concept but is used by too many other writers. I chose to write about a personal experience that exposes my weaknesses, but displays how I have worked through my flaws.

As I mentioned above, I used italicized text to express my thoughts to the reader, but also to add more visual interest and definition between aspects of my writing. To delve even deeper into my thought processes, I also interjected short and blunt sentences that relayed my intense and choppy state of mind. To appeal to the intellect of my audience and portray myself as an intelligent writer, I used sophisticated language and prose while avoiding inserting obscure words that would make me seem as if I was deliberately trying to show off my ability to use a dictionary.

The primary appeal I implemented was pathos, which I used to connect with my reader by opening up my emotions and personal thoughts in my writing. I wanted to show that I can be vulnerable and genuine, while also finding the balance between vulnerability and asking for sympathy. I kept in mind the expectations of my audience and genre, considering the likely biases of my readers.

Muscle Tears

My lower back ached from sitting on the plastic seat of the bleachers, fluorescent lights stung my eyes while my sister's team danced on the gym floor. I was exhausted, so my mother caved in to my complaints and took me to town to find a meal.

We drove around for nearly twenty minutes trying to decide where to eat. As I contemplated, her brow lines hardened and her tone sharpened. *Why is she getting so frustrated so quickly?* She snapped at me, telling me that I was wasting her time. *It's no big deal Mom! Why do I have to be the one to decide, anyways?* I was famished, unable to make a simple decision. How ironic, since all I ever seemed to do was use my voice.

I was notoriously talkative and sarcastic, but this day was abnormal.

Our car merged onto the freeway and for the first time in my life, I was terrified of my mother. I felt the car lurch as she slammed on the gas pedal, the car accelerating with her anger. She erratically wove between cars, gripping the wheel like it was her only connection to sanity. *Why is she driving like this? She never drives like this.* I was scared to be in the car with her.

Would she crash this car?

We arrived home and I fled from the car, screaming, "Don't hurt me! Please, don't hurt me." I glanced back to see her car pull away, nothing but a blur of white clouded by the tears in my eyes. I frantically searched my pockets for my phone, hoping to reach her before she hurt anyone—or herself. My fingers trembled as I held the phone to my ear, sighing with relief when she finally answered. Initially, I was confused; "What did I ever do to you?" That was the spark that lit the match.

I was guilty of quite a bit, it turns out.

My mother replied shakily, "You don't love me. One day, you will be sorry for how you have treated me." I tried to interject to tell her I care about her, I love her, I'm sorry. It was too late; she pushed the END button just as I had pushed her buttons so many times before. Tears streaming down my face, I dialed my father. I expected him to chalk up my mother's behavior to stress, to reassure me.

He did nothing to console me.

"Your mom was right. You treat her terribly, you walk all over her. It was only a matter of time before you broke her."

I crumpled onto my couch, my heart racing. *How had I not seen this before?* I had sheltered myself from the truth with an umbrella of self-righteousness.

I was selfish.

My parents hurled the evidence in my face and I could no longer ignore it. Being told that I was cruel enough to cause my own mother to experience an emotional breakdown, that I was so worried about myself that I completely disregarded the feelings of my loved ones, forced me to take ownership of my actions.

How do I prevent myself from hurting the people I love?

My relationship with my mother did not heal overnight, but the first layer of skin began to cover the wound. Personal growth is not completed in a moment, in a day, or in a year. It never is complete. It is a continuous process of healing, like how muscles tear so they can grow to be longer and stronger. My relationship with my mother helped me recognize my mistakes in other relationships, allowing me to reevaluate

how I connect with the people in my life. Every day, I think about that afternoon. Every day, I promise myself that I will never devolve into the inconsiderate person I once was. I will be conscious of my words, and I will appreciate the emotions of others as if they were my own. I will not cause pain to those I love, but I will heal those who are in pain with my love.