Hip Hop Nation: U.S. History through Writing, Sound, and Movement

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Overview

Essential Question: What does Hip Hop perpetuate?
-U.S. History through the lens of Hip Hop
- Creative, expository, analytical and research-based writing
- “Experiential” Learning: applying the concepts to the real world (students learn recording arts, hip hop dance, practice graffiti art, visit on-site locations, collaborate with local artists)
Unit 1: Where are you from? What are the origins of hip hop? (Poem)

Unit 2: How has hip hop been shaped by events in US History? (Informational text for classroom timeline to be displayed in school hallway)

Unit 3: What messages about gender does hip hop perpetuate? (lyric analysis essay)

Unit 4: What messages about violence does hip hop perpetuate? (historical perspective narrative)

Unit 5: What is the geography of hip hop? (US regional group presentations; world maps)

Unit 6: What does hip hop perpetuate? How have events in US history shaped hip hop? (final course reflection)
Community Partners & Experiential Learning

- Harvard Hip Hop Archives
- Visits from local hip hop artists
- Project Hip Hop
- Herd Music Studios
- Field Trip to NYC
- Symposium (community showcase)