

CRJU 3247: Final Impact Exam – Hip Hop Culture and Crime

Total Points: 100

Due Date: July 21, 2025 / 11:55PM

Formatting:

- APA 7th Edition for references and citations
- Times New Roman, 12 pt font, double-spaced, 1-inch margins
- Title page and reference page required (not included in word count)
- **Minimum of two sources per response**

Instructions:

This exam is designed to allow you to reflect on key themes from the course and apply them to current events, personal experience, and social justice issues. Please choose **TWO of the THREE prompts** below to respond to. Each response should be between **800 - 1000 words**.

Choose 2 of the Following Prompts:

1. The Artist vs. The Architect: Who Designs the Narrative?

Hip hop artists are often blamed for perpetuating violence, misogyny, and crime. But many argue they're simply reflecting the world they've been given.

In your response, consider:

- Who bears more responsibility: the artist or the system they come from?
- Is documenting a reality the same as endorsing it?
- How do producers, labels, media outlets, and policymakers shape what messages are amplified?

2. Prison Bars & Rap Bars: When Sound Becomes Surveillance

Consider the growing trend of using lyrics, music videos, and social media posts as evidence in criminal trials.

In your response, explore the following:

- How does this practice affect freedom of expression for artists?

- What are the potential dangers of interpreting fictional or artistic content as literal intent or confession?
 - Would lyrics from other musical genres (e.g., heavy metal, country, punk) be interpreted the same way in a courtroom? Why or why not?
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3. Healing Through the Mic: Hip Hop as Therapy or Trauma Cycle?

Artists often use music to heal personal wounds, but they also risk retraumatizing themselves or their communities.

Analyze:

- How can hip hop serve as a space for healing and accountability?
 - When does storytelling become toxic repetition?
 - What responsibility do artists have (if any) to the youth and communities that consume their work?
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Grading Rubric (100 pts Total):

Category	Points
Depth & Insight of Analysis	30
Application of Course Materials	30
APA Formatting & Source Integration	15
Writing Clarity & Organization	15
Creativity, Originality, and Effort	10

Final Note from Professor Tarver:

This Impact Exam is your chance to reflect, analyze, and express yourself authentically. You've explored heavy topics discussing freedom, culture, identity, and justice. Now I want to hear your voice and perspective. Make it meaningful.