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American Studies

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Kendrick Lamar: An Annotated Bibliography

Blanchard, Becky. "The Social Significance of Rap & Hip-Hop Culture." *Poverty & Prejudice: Media and Race*. Web. 18 Mar. 2016.

Extensive information on the relationship between rap music and earlier musical genres such as jazz and blues is provided on this site. Specific detail about styles and purpose, going all the way back to early African oral histories. Secondary Source.

Blistein, Jon. "Kendrick Lamar Celebrates Eazy-E, Compton in Powerful Tribute." *Rolling Stone*. 2015. Web. 18 Mar. 2016.

In this interview with Lamar, he names and praises the artists whom he feels have influenced him the most in preparation for a special edition of a magazine that pairs artists and their influences in a special tribute edition. Primary Source.

Eells, Josh. "The Trials of Kendrick Lamar." *Rolling Stone*. 2015. Web. 18 Mar. 2016.

This Rolling Stone interview with Kendrick Lamar delves into his childhood and the early stages of Lamar's career. The fact that Lamar grew up in Compton is used as the basis for an argument that his style and source of inspiration are similar to earlier, influential artists from the same area. Primary Source.

France, Lisa. "Kendrick Lamar Remembers Tupac Shakur on Anniversary." *CNN*. Cable News Network. Web. 18 Mar. 2016.

This article quotes Lamar's Twitter post paying tribute to his mentor Tupak Shakur. He also posts about how he sees his role as continuing in the tradition of artists such as Shakur. Primary Source.

Goodman, Lizzy. "Kendrick Lamar, Hip-Hop's Newest Old-School Star." *The New York Times*. The New York Times, 2014. Web. 18 Mar. 2016.

This website provides insight into the rise to stardom of Kendrick Lamar including commentary on his role as the voice of a new generation and the influence of others on him. Goodman likens Lamar's effect musically to that of James Joyce, a writer whose experimental style influenced authors after him. The article sheds light on the character of the artist as well while on tour with Kanye West. Secondary Source.

Lamar, Kendrick. "The Blacker The Berry" Lyrics." *KENDRICK LAMAR LYRICS*. Web. 18 Mar. 2016.

The lyrics to this song express the frustration of the black community with being discriminated against based solely on the color of their skin. The title comes from a Harlem Renaissance novel and is a blunt exploration of how black people are treated globally. Primary Source.

Reed, Ryan. "Kendrick Lamar Debuts New Song in Cathartic Grammy Medley." *Rolling Stone*. 2016. Web. 18 Mar. 2016.

In this brief article, peers of Lamar's and older artists proclaim Lamar's ability to speak for a group of people who feel they have no voice. LL Cool J lauds Lamar for beginning a conversation about racial issues in society. Secondary Source.

Rhodes, Henry. "93.04.04: The Evolution of Rap Music in the United States." *Yale-New Haven Teacher's Institutes*. Web. 18 Mar. 2016.

This website contains the basis for curriculum for a course offered at Yale on the history of rap and hip-hop music in America. The author has done extensive research into the history of this musical phenomenon. Details about early artists and the situations from which they arose are presented. Secondary Source.

"Tupac Shakur." *Bio.com*. A&E Networks Television. Web. 18 Mar. 2016.

This site is useful for understanding the power of artists who preceded Lamar. Shakur was a powerful influence on Lamar, and those influences can be heard in both the style and lyrics of Lamar. Secondary Source.