

# **Student Essay on Lyrics in Modern Rap Music**

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# Essay

Words like nigger and other cursing words are dangerous. Racial and sexual epithets, whether screamed across a street or camouflaged by the rhythms of a song, turn people into objects less than human- easier to abuse, easier to violate and destroy. What is even more horrible is that society they are being supported by some of the very people they lessen or reduce. Youth are being sold a social dictionary that says racism, sexism, and violence are acceptable in our society.

Alvin Posusant, a Harvard psychiatrist who is black believes that the widespread acceptance of such degrading and denigrating images may reflect low self-esteem among black men in today's society. There are few positive black male role models in today's society. The fact is neither racism, sexism or violence should be accepted. yet in some instances the acceptance of such rap music with ill messages has reached large proportions.

Some facts about racism and sexism and violence are astonishing to tell. For example, in America a woman is raped once every six minutes. A majority of children surveyed by a Rhode Island rape crisis center thought rape was acceptable. In New York City rape arrests of 13 year old boys have increased 200 percent in the past two years. It is true no one is saying this happens only because rap music or rock music, but certainly kids are influenced by the glorification. They are not born with ideas of prejudice- they learn from what they see in the world around them. If their world promotes and glorifies violence.

Everyone in our society as educators, principals, and other authorities have to send the message loud and clear through our homes, our schools, our streets, as well as our art and culture.