HOW TO WRITE YOUR VERY OWN HIP HOP SONG!

Step 1: Find a beat

Before you write your song you find a beat! If you write without a beat, it's going to take a lot more work to try to get lyrics to fit with the music! It is a great idea to to choose your own beat that reflects your mood and style. You can find over 50 original beats here:

www.flocabulary.com/warp/beats

This website also has some other great resources to help you create a great song, just look at the menu on the left.

Step 2: Add hooks and verses

Nearly every rap song consists of three basic parts: intro, hook (chorus) and verse. Sometimes you'll see some other elements, but usually rappers stick to these three.

Most songs begin with some instrumental bars, which are typically followed by a verse, although some do start with a hook. Very few songs begin with rapping. Usually the beat plays for 4 or 8 bars before the rapper comes in.

After the intro, the song should contain a verse, write on verse of 8 to 16 lines for each person in your team. The verse is the largest section of a song and usually contains the bulk of the information.

After the first verse comes the hook (chorus), which is the most memorable part of many hip-hop songs. There are basically two types of hooks: rapped or sung. Many hooks incorporate both of these techniques. It should be fun to listen to, because it's the part that listeners are going to hear the most. This, I'm sure, is what The Sugarhill Gang was thinking about with this hook on "Rapper's Delight":

I said a hip-hop, the hippie the hippie, To the hip hip-hop, uh you don't stop the rockin',
To the bang bang, say up jumped the boogie, To rhythm of the boogie the beat.

That hook doesn't make any sense, but it is fun and oddly catchy. The second thing most hooks should do is advance the main idea of the song. Students should always come back to the hook once they've written the whole song to see if they can improve it. Hooks are extremely important.

Step 3: Write the song

In some cases, it's a good idea to sketch out your song, but if you have a good sense of the information you want to include, you can start writing and see where it takes you! The best advice at this stage is just to keep writing and rewriting until you have something that you're ready to share with others.

Communicate with the members of your team as this is a group activity and teamwork is important! After the completion of the project we will have a Rap Battle - and those teams who have put in the most effort will win a Hip Hop Recording Session!
TEAM MEMBERS: ____________________________________________________________

GROUP NAME: _______________________________ SONG TITLE: ___________________

NAME OF YOUR BEAT: ________________________________________________________

Verse 1
1___________________________________________________________________________
2___________________________________________________________________________
3___________________________________________________________________________
4___________________________________________________________________________
5___________________________________________________________________________
6___________________________________________________________________________
7___________________________________________________________________________
8___________________________________________________________________________

Verse 2
1___________________________________________________________________________
2___________________________________________________________________________
3___________________________________________________________________________
4___________________________________________________________________________
5___________________________________________________________________________
6___________________________________________________________________________
7___________________________________________________________________________
8___________________________________________________________________________

Hook
1___________________________________________________________________________
2___________________________________________________________________________
3___________________________________________________________________________
4___________________________________________________________________________
5___________________________________________________________________________
6___________________________________________________________________________
7___________________________________________________________________________
8___________________________________________________________________________

Song Form Structure: (for 2 person groups)

Intro - Verse 1 - Hook - Verse 2 - Hook - Hook