

D.I.F. Conference Proposal

Multicultural Student Center

Georgia Southern University

Presentation Title:

Check the Rhyme: History of Social Justice in Hip Hop culture

Brief Description:

The presenter will provide a brief historical overview of social justice issues connected to minority communities. In addition, the presenter will provide visual and musical examples of hip hop artists advocating for specific social justice issues. Lastly, the presenter will provide historical and cultural context for each musical example. This action will provide the attendees greater insight into the parallel connections between hip hop and the overarching culture that the music represents.

Summary:

In an interview, Dr. Tricia Rose (author of “Black Noise” and “Hip Hop Wars”) stated that, “Hip Hop can be a poetic force for a social movement”. When we review the evolution of Hip Hop up to the current age, that notion is not prevalent in today’s Hip Hop music. In a society marred with violence, police brutality, drastic political change, xenophobia, and other societal ills, where does Hip Hop stand in this storm of societal unrest? Historically, hip hop has served as a voice for unity, revolution, and progress for underrepresented people. Many would argue today that hip hop communities are systemically destroying the very communities it supposed to represent. Plagued by greed, misogyny, hate, violence, etc., hip hop is becoming a vehicle for destruction not change. A great man once said, “When purpose is unknown, abuse is inevitable”. The purpose of this presentation is to reconnect the audience with true organic purpose of hip hop music. In addition, repurpose the voice of hip hop music to societal uplift and not just purely a means of entertainment.

Learning Outcomes:

- Attendees will learn the true definition and dimension of social justice
- Attendees will learn the connection between hip hop music and social justice.
- Attendees will learn how to advocate for a social justice issues in a contemporary society.
- Attendees will be introduced to contemporary artists who utilize hip hop as a vehicle to advocate for social justice in our current society.
- Attendees can discuss and brainstorm ways hip hop culture can advocate for issues of social justice within a post- Trump society.