

UN1001: Perspectives on Inquiry
Section #17: Hip Hop Culture, History & Politics

Textual Analysis Project

Genre: Analytic Essay

Length: 500-750 words

Due Dates:

- Weeks 3 and 4: Rhetorical *précis*
- Tuesday, 2/10: First Draft (3 copies)
- Tuesday, 2/17: Final Draft

We've been practicing a technique known as a rhetorical *précis* – a highly structured summary that explicates *what* a writer is expressing, *how* she does it, and for *what intended audience* she is writing.

Your first major writing assignment in this class is a textual analysis, which draws on those skills in an extended format. A textual analysis is an argument for a probable or potential interpretation of a text. In this case, your challenge is to make an argument about a probable or potential interpretation of Krs-One's "It Ain't Where Ya From – It's Where Ya At!" from his book *Ruminations*.

Remember to keep your tone and your references analytic rather than evaluative in emphasis. Support your points with direct quotes, references to tone, and other examples found in the text.

Once you have read, re-read, and taken notes on your chapter for analysis, write your first draft:

- **Introduce** the general and specific topics in such a way that generates some curiosity in your reader
- **Summarize** the writer's main points
- **Illustrate** *how* the writer makes those points with examples
- **Discuss** the intended audience and what kind of relationship the writer establishes – or does not establish -- with that audience. What strategic and rhetorical choices does the writer make that seem particularly keyed to the intended audience?
- **Conclude** your analysis by helping your reader get past the "so what?" question: are there any interesting connections between our general topic – hip hop – and this specific text? Does the text add to a larger conversation? Do any values emerge that challenge or support popular views of hip hop?