



How to Rap: The Art and Science of the Hip-Hop MC

By Kool G Rap, Paul Edwards



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Examining the dynamics of hip-hop from every region and in every form—mainstream and underground, current and classic—this compelling how-to discusses everything from content and flow to rhythm and delivery in relation to the art and craft of rap. Compiled from the most extensive research on rapping to date, this first-of-its-kind guide delivers countless candid and exclusive insights from more than 100 of the most critically acclaimed artists in hip-hop—including Cllipse, Cypress Hill, Nelly, Public Enemy, Remy Ma, Schoolly D, A Tribe Called Quest, and will.i.am—unraveling the stories behind their art and preserving a wealth of the genre’s history through the words of the legends themselves. Exhaustively detailing the many complex aspects of rapping—such as utilizing literary tools and devices to strengthen content, battling, imagery, similes, metaphors, analogies, slang, performing both live and in the studio, word play, controversial content and punchlines, and constructing beats, singles, and freestyling—with emphasis on enunciating and breathing for unique vocal style, this remarkable book will benefit beginners and pros alike with its limitless wealth of rapping lore and insight.

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Editorial Review

Review

"*How to Rap* is classic in an art that is just coming into a definition of itself. Everyone who wants to go to the next level needs this book, it's the inside and outside of the trade." --Nikki Giovanni, poet and one of Oprah Winfrey's 25 Living Legends

"*How to Rap* marks a cultural coming-of-age for hip-hop -- the first comprehensive poetics of this new literary form" -- Dana Gioia, poet and former Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts

"Filled with real tools and overflowing with inspiration... a good read even for nonartists interested in learning more about hip-hop creativity, personalities, and history, this offers insights into music and poetry... highly recommended" -- *Library Journal*

"The most incredible feature of *How to Rap* are bar notational charts that can be used to form your rhyme, flow, and more" -- *On Wax Magazine*

"Wanna learn how to be a super MC? In *How to Rap* over 100 rappers have offered their insight on the artform for aspiring wordsmiths" -- *XXL Magazine*

"How useful, amid the rain-forest-worrying deluge of books written on hip-hop theory and culture, that Paul Edwards has taken a straightforward, reasoned and informed approach to discussing the actual mechanics of rapping. *How To Rap* looks at that art form by unknitting its components--content, style, delivery and, most intriguingly, its spatial alliance with music and beats--and uses practical examples for context and analysis. Aspiring MCs will benefit most, but there are insights and observations that will appeal to anyone with an interest in hip-hop's development." —Alex Ogg, author, *The Hip Hop Years, The Men Behind Def Jam, Rap Lyrics*

"A clever breakdown of the art form of hip-hop rhymes, for anyone who is into the art of incredible raps. It's about time someone actually recognized this powerful music for its artistic ingenuity." —Speech, Arrested Development

"A complete guide to the art and craft of the MC, anyone who's serious about becoming a rapper should read this first. Proof positive that rap is more than just talking over music - a vital and vibrant expose of a much misunderstood art form." —*Hip-Hop Connection*

"If only this book had existed back in the day, I might not have become a university professor. For now, though, I'll have to settle for hanging out with my academic pals Eazy A, Chuck Ph.D., and Dr. GRE--and curling up with a copy of *How To Rap*. Watch out world, this crazy ass-prof [associate professor] is coming straight outta college." —Kembrew McLeod, professor, critic (*Rolling Stone, The Village Voice, Spin, Mojo*), author (*Freedom of Expression®*), documentary filmmaker

"Want to be a true emcee? Then pick up this book before picking up a microphone. Never before has the artform been broken down so well." —dubcnn.com (no. 1 news and interview site for West Coast hip-hop,

including regular interviews with major rappers such as Snoop Dogg and Ice Cube)

"Paul Edwards's new book *How to Rap* brings a fresh approach to hip-hop lyricism that's remarkable for its depth of practical detail. What's in a namecheck? What are the pros and cons of certain metrical or rhetorical forms? What are the most common structures in hip-hop's history? With numerous examples and analyses of the hip-hop greats of the past, Edwards offers both an immensely practical introduction for would-be rappers, as well as the first detailed poetics of 'the pulse of the rhyme flow' in hip-hop. This is a foundational text."

—Russell Potter, Ph.D., author of *Spectacular Vernaculars*

"*How to Rap* is an excellent, revealing read on the insights to the technical workings of rap music. I had no idea what I did was so scientific and complicated or the literary value of it. As a scholar and an educator, I highly recommend this book to any rap fans or people interested in the technical aspects of music and poetry." —Mighty Casey, popular underground rapper

"A must-have guide for anyone who ever wanted to understand the blood, sweat, and tears that can go into the art of MCing. The book lets those in the dark understand the craft of MCing as close as possible." —DJ Rasta Root, Smokin' Needles Records (DJs and produces for the likes of A Tribe Called Quest's Phife Dawg, with whom he runs Smokin' Needles Records)

About the Author

Paul Edwards holds a master's degree in postmodernism, literature, and contemporary culture from University of London and has done extensive research on rappers and their creative processes, musical theories, and lyrics.

Kool G Rap is one of the most influential MCs of all time, with Eminem, Jay-Z, Big Pun, R.A. the Rugged Man, and many others citing him among their influences. Frequently on "greatest MCs of all time" lists, he has appeared on tracks with numerous artists, including Eminem, Nas, AZ, Mobb Deep, Busta Rhymes, Big L, Ghostface Killah, and Canibus.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Anne Stewart:

Have you spare time for the day? What do you do when you have a lot more or little spare time? Sure, you can choose the suitable activity with regard to spend your time. Any person spent their very own spare time to take a go walking, shopping, or went to typically the Mall. How about open or perhaps read a book eligible *How to Rap: The Art and Science of the Hip-Hop MC*? Maybe it is to become best activity for you. You already know beside you can spend your time with your favorite's book, you can better than before. Do you agree with it is opinion or you have various other opinion?

Esther Belote:

What do you ponder on book? It is just for students because they are still students or the idea for all people in the world, the actual best subject for that? Just you can be answered for that question above. Every person has distinct personality and hobby per other. Don't to be pushed someone or something that they don't desire do that. You must know how great and important the book *How to Rap: The Art and Science of the Hip-Hop MC*. All type of book could you see on many methods. You can look for the internet options or other social

media.

Ruth Snider:

How to Rap: The Art and Science of the Hip-Hop MC can be one of your beginner books that are good idea. All of us recommend that straight away because this publication has good vocabulary that could increase your knowledge in vocabulary, easy to understand, bit entertaining but nevertheless delivering the information. The article author giving his/her effort to put every word into enjoyment arrangement in writing How to Rap: The Art and Science of the Hip-Hop MC but doesn't forget the main level, giving the reader the hottest and also based confirm resource data that maybe you can be one of it. This great information can easily drawn you into brand-new stage of crucial contemplating.

Sandra Mendoza:

What is your hobby? Have you heard this question when you got scholars? We believe that that problem was given by teacher to their students. Many kinds of hobby, Everybody has different hobby. And you also know that little person similar to reading or as studying become their hobby. You need to understand that reading is very important as well as book as to be the matter. Book is important thing to provide you knowledge, except your own personal teacher or lecturer. You discover good news or update with regards to something by book. Amount types of books that can you go onto be your object. One of them is How to Rap: The Art and Science of the Hip-Hop MC.

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