Introduction

Hip Hop transcends time and space, however, its confluence in the Bronx in 1973 is worth commemorating. During the celebration of fifty years of Hip Hop, Dr. Dana Horton, Dr. Lavar Pope, and Dr. Travis Harris asked their students to reflect on fifty years of Hip Hop. They asked students to discuss why Hip Hop is still popular in 2023, as well as the direction the culture has taken. Students are at the forefront of keeping Hip Hop culture alive, and their contributions to our 50th Anniversary are valuable.

We asked a similar question in our courses: “Hip hop started 50 years ago in the Bronx. Why do you think that Hip Hop is still popular, 50 years later? What are your thoughts on the direction the culture has taken?” It is worth noting that this inquiry into student thinking about the 50th was an initial starting point for the Journal of Hip Hop Studies thinking about the anniversary. The student responses were rich, powerful, and insightful. The students represent three different locations and in different subject areas related to Hip Hop studies. Some common features of the responses are detailed here and the full responses are included below.

Survey Purpose and Design

The purpose of the survey was to gain insight from student voices from different regions of the US (NYC, Westchester County, Chicago, and Virginia), and it is fascinating to examine the similarities and differences in the responses. In last year's Journal of Hip Hop Studies issue “Funk What You Heard: Hip Hop is a Field of Study,” we asked scholars to move beyond contextless lyrical analysis and to treat Hip Hop as a serious field of study. Students are instrumental in keeping Hip Hop alive both inside and outside of the classroom, and their engagement with the elements of Hip Hop demonstrates a commitment to Hip Hop’s traditions and ingenuity. When reading the following responses, we were reminded about the possibilities for Hip Hop’s past, present, and future, as well as ways to involve students in Hip Hop Studies.

The idea for the “Hip at 50” project originated from a final exam question in Dr. Horton’s “ENGL236: Hip Hop Literature and Culture.” Discussion of this course and its question at a Journal of Hip Hop Studies board meeting led to a peaked interest in finding a way to better commemorate the 50th anniversary of Hip Hop. Dr. Pope and Dr. Harris discussed working on the project with Dr. Horton at the board meeting. Dr. Pope’s “ACPOL 205 Power, Rap Music, and Urban America” and Dr. Harris’ “HIS 107 African American History” modeled questions similar to Dr. Horton’s class questions of their students.
Description of Locations, Students, and Host Institutions

Dr. Horton’s ENGL236: Hip Hop Literature and Culture course was a synchronous online Zoom class taught at Mercy College (now Mercy University) in Spring 2023. Mercy University is a Hispanic and Minority Serving Institution with over 70% of students identifying as a racial minority. Twenty students were enrolled in the course, and they resided in New York City and Westchester County. At least half of the class lived in the Bronx with some students residing not far from the 1973 Hip Hop party. As a 200 level English class, it attracted students from various majors and disciplines. The course focused on analyzing and discussing Hip Hop’s literary and rhetorical power. In previous sections, Dr. Horton took students to The Hip Hop Museum on Exterior Street in the Bronx, where they experienced “The Golden Age of Hip Hop” exhibit and connected their experiences back to the course content.

New York City and the Bronx specifically came up frequently in the students’ responses. Throughout the semester, students reflected on how the Bronx was represented in Hip Hop, with popular mainstream artists like Cardi B coming up as a discussion topic. Some students also mentioned not feeling welcomed in certain areas in NYC, such as Staten Island and Manhattan, and likened their experiences to the economic and political circumstances that led to Hip Hop’s realization in 1970s Bronx. Students reflected on how Hip Hop gave voice to common themes and struggles that many can relate to, which is why it is still popular, and Hip Hop’s constant reinvention and innovation allows it to stay in the public’s consciousness.

Dr. Pope’s ACPOL 205 “Power, Rap Music, and Urban America was an in-person class taught at Loyola University Chicago’s Arrupe College in Summer 2023. Loyola is a Jesuit institution of about twelve thousand undergraduates, with a Water Tower Campus (near Chicago’s Magnificent Mile) and a Lakeshore Campus (in Rogers Park). Arrupe College is a two year college within Loyola on the Water Tower Campus. It currently enrolls about three hundred and fifty students in programs in Arts and Sciences, Business, and Social and Behavioral Sciences. The Arrupe program is designed for students who would not otherwise be likely to be able to attend a college or university, or for students in which attending a Community College would be tremendously difficult. The student population is majority Latinx and Black. Roughly 90% of Arrupe students are commuters. Most of the ACPOL 205 class was from Chicago’s North, West, and South sides. There was also a student who was raised in nearby Waukegan, Illinois. Also, most of the class were social and behavioral sciences majors.
Dr. Harris’ class differed from Dr. Pope’s and Dr. Horton’s because his was not a Hip Hop class. Dr. Harris taught HIS 107 “African American History” at a private historically Black college and university in Virginia. HIS 107 is a survey African American history class that covers Black history from slavery to present day. The course was taught in the summer of 2023 to the incoming freshmen class. HIS 107 is a general education requirement at this university. This meant that freshmen from a variety of majors took this class. We decided to include this course to see how students’ responses may differ when coming from a non-Hip Hop course. Also, Dr. Harris is a Hip Hop professor, therefore, he would include aspects of Hip Hop throughout the course. Dr. Harris lectured in a Hip Hop style, meaning that his cadence, language, and delivery all had a particular flow to it. He used Hip Hop music to provide some of the historical information. Dr. Harris used rap songs that discussed the major themes in the course as points of discussion.

**Summary and Highlights of Student’s Responses**

Overall, student voices made it clear that Hip Hop speaks to, and challenges, current issues and trends. With fifty years of emceeing, breakin, spraying, and deejaying as a culture, it is clear that Hip Hop continues to evolve, stay relevant and evoke social change. Several students spoke to Hip Hop’s social relevance, for example, a student noted: “Hip Hop’s global presence, and its ability to transcend boundaries, is another aspect of the culture that students consistently pointed towards.”

Students also recognized Hip Hop is a form of expression that can help Black people unite and fight for liberation. Politically, students noted its uses by minoritized peoples, namely Black Americans, and its uses for “self-expression, social commentary, and storytelling.” Economically, some students were, rightfully, critical of the capitalist and appropriative direction that mainstream Hip Hop has taken. There were also comments about Hip Hop’s potential to lead community growth and as part of the evolution of styles created by urban youth. Several students spoke to Hip Hop’s social relevance. One example included a student discussing Hip Hop’s role in truth telling through lyrics:

Hip hop is still prominent in our society today because hip hop speaks the truth. The lyrics in hip hop songs talk about real life issues and what our community is going through. Hip hop allows people to talk about their experiences while you’re able to still rock to the music and beat. The reason hip hop is still able to live on
today is because it has evolved and continues to evolve. I feel as though hip hop now has subgenres and that's why it will live on forever.

Hip Hop’s global presence, and its ability to transcend boundaries, is another aspect of the culture that students consistently pointed towards. In an example symbolic of other cases, a student remarked:

Hip hop has remained popular for the past 50 years because it has continuously evolved and adapted to the changing cultural landscape. The genre has grown and expanded beyond its origins in the Bronx and has become a global phenomenon. Hip hop has the ability to capture and express the struggles, dreams, and experiences of people from all walks of life, and this universality has allowed it to resonate with people from all over the world. Additionally, the genre has consistently produced innovative and influential artists who have pushed the boundaries of music, art, and culture. Hip hop has also had a significant impact on popular culture, with elements of the genre appearing in fashion, film, television, and advertising. Overall, the enduring popularity of hip hop is a testament to its cultural significance and enduring impact on music and society.

A significant contribution the student’s answers make to Hip Hop Studies is the difference a Hip Hop class makes in understanding Hip Hop. In Dr. Horton’s and Pope’s classes, the students discussed the diasporic nature of Hip Hop and how Hip Hop is more than music, it is also a culture. In Dr. Horton’s class, one student stated: “Hip Hop is more than just a genre of music, Hip Hop is a representation of culture.” In Dr. Pope’s class, a student remarked: “Hip Hop also appeals to people from different origins which reflects the fact that the genre was created by a diasporic community.” No students in Dr. Harris class discussed the diasporic components of Hip Hop. Also, they primarily described it as music and did present Hip Hop as a culture that is beyond rap music.

Conclusion

Overall, our students linked Hip Hop and rap as forms of art able to transmit messages from those who would otherwise be rendered unheard. Students recognized these as transformative spaces for participants and fans—both in moments and over time. Change, and Hip Hop’s potential to impact change, are common threads in student responses. Teaching Hip Hop classes are beneficial in helping students to understand Hip Hop beyond rap music. Hip Hop courses have the potential to educate students about Hip Hop as an African diasporic phenomenon and highlight its revolutionary potential.
We would like to conclude with two telling examples of this type of common student response. There were regular remarks similar to “Hip Hop is still popular today because the younger generation still likes that type of music.” Students also often remarked on Hip Hop’s “versatile and diverse origins” and the role of sampling and technology. As course instructors, student responses were an important tool on the reflection of our work in and out of the classroom. The full responses are in Appendix A, B, and C below, as we felt they should be published and heard. They are raw data responses that are unedited for content, errors, or language.
Appendix A: Responses from Dr Horton’s ENGL236: Hip Hop Literature and Culture Students

The question was asked on an exam. The exact question was: “Hip Hop started 50 years ago in the Bronx. Why do you think that Hip Hop is still popular, 50 years later? What are your thoughts on the direction the culture has taken?” The responses are below.

1. I think Hip Hop is still popular 50 years later because it continues to grow and change. It was never afraid to point out the issues of what was going on in the world. They made songs about it. Every song has a meaning and message behind it. Hip Hop is an expression of themselves and their lives. And that doesn’t change over the years. Issues and problems are always there.

2. Hip Hop is still popular because it is still evolving. I feel like as the years go on, Hip Hop will continue changing and will most likely still be popular 50 years from now. People are adding new aspects to Hip Hop songs that appeal to all ages. There are different genres of hip hop now. Basically, it’s forever changing but also everlasting. The songs released 50 years ago are still played on the radio and enjoyed by many.

3. American Hip Hop is one of the few cultures that began on American soil. I believe that Hip Hop is popular because it is a composite of many cultures from African, to Caribbean to American. Hip Hop has no limitations on interpretation. Additionally, other genres of music are much more distinctive sonically. Hip Hop is a form of expression that is user generated, has no restrictions or limitations and is ever changing. Hip-hop is here to stay.

4. Because Hip Hop overtook pop music, mainstream audiences were more influenced, and the charts began speaking for themselves financially and artistically. Hip Hop music has an influence on creating and shaping new artists. All the great artists that come from this genre would have and have not died are memorable, and the Black community continues to appreciate the struggle of each one. The history of rapping has its roots in urban neighborhoods, and the rhythm or beat is captivating, which is why it has sustained for so long.

5. Hip-hop is very relevant and popular since it is a genre that focuses on the truths and hardships which many people go through. It resonates and has the realness people are looking to connect to. Regardless of the time that passes, I believe it will always be popular. There are a lot more African American artists in the industry as well, so the opportunities are given to them by the previous generations. Without representation, it
could be more difficult for them to gain momentum in the industry. The hip-hop community unites people and helps give a presence to those who deserve it.

6. Hip-hop is still popular 50 years later because it continues to evolve and adapt to the changing cultural landscape. The core values of hip-hop, such as self-expression, community, and social justice, are still relevant today and resonate with a wide range of people. In addition, hip-hop has always been a reflection of the experiences and struggles of marginalized communities, and these experiences are still relevant today. As long as there are people who feel marginalized and oppressed, hip-hop will continue to be a powerful tool for self-expression and social change.

7. Hiphop is still popular because it’s birthplace is New York, creative rappers from all over will keep hiphop going because there are so many different versions of hip hop. Hip hop culture is also around because people also want the next new thing instead of mumble rapping it has now moved into drill music. Hiphop will remain popular because it also has roots of bounce from New Orleans, we have K-pop from Korean artist, and even mixed gospel music with hip hop, it’s safe to say it will be around for a while. We will have to see the new version of hiphop for the future years coming.

8. Hip Hop started 50 years ago in the Bronx, 50 years later it is very popular and still growing into much more fame and popularity because it has given many positive outcomes to making nothing out of something. Hip Hop has given the key role soul of music and making it into a unique style that can’t be duplicated but improved and converted in many ways. It also have given many musicians, artists, and performers the chance to express themselves verbally, mentally, and physically, which lead to break dancing, DJ turners, and beat boxing. New York city of The Bronx is the origin and soul of Hip Hop culture, it is the homeland of the music we have in today’s world, with having many different style of the same music and as well with making classic music that doesn’t or won’t die out.

9. During this course, we learned that hip hop is a music genre that developed and changed throughout the years and allowed everyone to express themselves through music regarding all kinds of topics. Therefore, I think hip hop will remain popular even in the future as every artist can add their own note to it. Further, hip hop is a genre without any boundaries: Everyone is able to be a part of it and many collaborations with other music genres have been made in the past. This shows that hip hop is very versatile and open to new directions of music which allows the genre to stay popular even many years after its birth in the Bronx 50 years ago.
10. Hip hop is still popular because of the things we have learned over the course of the semester. How universal and diverse hip hop continues to be and influential it is, throughout dance, religion, spirituality, political and Afrocentric themes. Hip hop continues to be a culture that everyone no matter what part of the world as we have learned wants to be a part of. The key startup of hip hop was unification something we must not forget.

11. Although Hip Hop was started 50 years ago in the Bronx, the reason why Hip Hop is still popular today is because it is a source for individuals to talk about topics that society shames or opposes. Hip Hop is more than just a genre of music, Hip Hop is a representation of culture. Hip Hop culture consist of diversity, evolution, and experimentation, it involves lyrically impressive turn of phrase that many individuals can relate to as well as deliver a message. Subgroups within Hip Hop deliver forms of self-expression for example, rap music for the most part deliver deep messages that are impactful depending on your narrative. Drake a well-known and respected American artist said, “To be honest, y'all financial situations my biggest motivation And how you should take that statement is based on what you makin” in Churchill Downs with Jack Harlow and this phrase for example can either offend or bring happiness to an individual. This lyric from the song makes individuals think beyond the music and about their actions, their occupation and motivate them to do more or thrive for all they desire.

12. I believe that Hip-hop is still popular due to its fundamentals. One of the core fundamentals of hip-hop was “to make something out of nothing.” Hip-Hop is more than just music, it is a cultural movement for the Black and Latino communities. Due to its nature, its full of innovation that keeps it fresh. For decades now and old artists have been in the industry creating songs to appeal to their listeners. These are just a couple of reasons why it remains so prevalent in today’s world.

13. Hip hop has remained popular for the past 50 years because it has continuously evolved and adapted to the changing cultural landscape. The genre has grown and expanded beyond its origins in the Bronx and has become a global phenomenon. Hip hop has the ability to capture and express the struggles, dreams, and experiences of people from all walks of life, and this universality has allowed it to resonate with people from all over the world. Additionally, the genre has consistently produced innovative and influential artists who have pushed the boundaries of music, art, and culture. Hip hop has also had a significant impact on popular culture, with elements of the genre appearing in fashion, film, television, and advertising. Overall, the enduring popularity of hip hop is a testament to its cultural significance and enduring impact on music and society.
14. Hip Hop has remained popular 50 years later because of how much it continues to evolve as the years go on. Hip hop represents black culture and black people in so many ways. Hip hop is welcoming and inclusive. Creativity is at an all time high in hip hop. Hip hop has constantly altered and developed to satisfy the demands and preferences of its listeners since it has always been a mirror of the cultural and social environment.

15. The reason hip hop is still popular 50 years later is because hip hop continues to evolve and grow as time goes on. Hip hop has always had a resonance with the youth and contrary to other genres where the youth would have to put together a band and commit to studying instruments and sharpening their vocal talent. The barrier for entry when it comes to hip hop is just downloading an instrumental from youtube, writing lyrics and then having someone engineer your vocals (or not). By being highly accessible to new generations hip hop has inadvertently given itself the gift of immortality. As long as technology continues to improve and develop, hip hop will become more and more accessible to everyone.

16. I think the reason as to why hip hop is still so popular, even after 50 years is because the artists find ways to make their lyrics very catchy and enjoyable for the audience. Add the the beats and rhythms along with the lyrics and you have a super catchy song. Right now most of the audience are teens and young adults and with social media being so big, music gets shared to even more people, making the pool of audience even bigger.

17. I think Hip Hop stays relevant because it evolves with the times and because it discusses the times it lives in. People rap about their culture and experiences, and they often share minority struggles through their lyrics. It creates a community. At the beginning of hip hop, Africa Bambaataa created Zulu nation to stop violence in the community and promote unity. It unifies people through shared struggles, beliefs, and identities. This has continued throughout the history of hip hop, and I think a good way to see the impact hip hop can have on people is by the public reaction to the death of Nipsey Hussle. Nipsey was known for doing a lot of charity work and putting importance on giving back to his community. He was from South LA and throughout his success he “the rapper was disinterested in flaunting his income from the music industry, preferring charity work and investments over materialism.” (Ahlgrim and Mitchell). When he was killed, the whole world seemed to grieve, and a very significant figure in the community was lost. This is also the case with the case with other rappers like Tupac, Biggie, and Pop Smoke who made significant impact on their communities. Another example of hip hop being important in communities is Cardi B. After class discussions, it
is clear that some of the appeal of Cardi B is that she is straight out of the Bronx and that she represents a borough that is often looked down upon. People felt that she was very authentic in her music and the way she conducted herself in interviews, and they felt some sort of kinship with her because she was from the Bronx. Another reason why Hip Hop is still popular is that it often discusses current problems, during the Black Lives Matter Protests, a lot of hip hop songs were used as a way to bond together and express frustration through music (similarly to NWA’s “Fuck tha Police” and the L.A Riots). Hip hop can provide a fun escape from reality with catchy lyrics and interesting music, but it can have cultural significance and put into words things that a lot of people are feeling.

18. I think that hip-hop is still popular 50 years later because it evolves it does not stay the same. An example is Chief Keef’s “I Don’t Like” This song inspired many artists that we now know today. Because Hip-Hop is constantly changing it creates different genres of music and different artist with their own way of making music. And Hip-hop does not stick to one genre it has various for example, gangsta rap, drill, pop rap, etc...

19. Hip hop is still popular 50 years later because it did not lose its relevance. When hip hop first began it was new to all artists and audience, and artists were singing about their circumstances. The origins of hip hop were the Bronx where the creators were poor and underprivileged. As hip hop gained popularity styles changed, and creativity broadened. The way in which artists molded the genre over time is what kept its relevance. Hip hop styles and sounds trended and had fads, as most other genres. Present day there is a lot of drugs, sex and violence in our music and that is what hip hop has molded to keeping its relevance.

20. With the formation of hip hop evolving for over 50 years and counting, the industry has progressed in a variety of ways. Since its birth and emergence in the late 20th century, rap really has taken full steam ahead in making the world known for its presence. With the original formation of beats and rhymes being formed from underground rap battles and simple standoffs in the streets, we have progressed much but ultimately, not to the point where it has changed the game entirely. Many artists use forms of expression that often reflect those that were once partially influential into the birth and development of the ideology (hip hop culture). For example, although we now have progressed into being able to make beats electronically on a computer system, some (but not many) songs to this day are recorded with true musical instruments in the background. Just like Todd Rundgren in “Bang the Drum All Day” the author continuously can be heard throughout the song playing musical drums and banging them in a way that insinuates an upbeat tempo song. This is part of what went into the sole making of this music that we know today. Since in the late 1900s, many upcoming
artists were rather not economically comfortable, anything that could be found to produce a beat would’ve been profound for incorporation in their song. This is how all of hip hop started in the Bronx in the 1900s. And even over half a century later, we as New Yorkers in the birthplace of hip hop, know what went into the formation and establishment of hip hop.

APPENDIX B: Responses from Dr. Pope’s ACPOL 205 “Power, Rap Music, and Urban America”

The question was asked on an in-class writing assignment. It was the same question as Dr. Horton’s ENGL236 course: “Hip hop started 50 years ago in the Bronx. Why do you think that Hip Hop is still popular, 50 years later? What are your thoughts on the direction the culture has taken?” The responses are below.

1. I believe that hip hop is still popular to this day and age because there’s always something new that comes with it. Whether it’s a new sound, a new flow somebody is rapping to, there’s always something new and it’ll always keep grasping the listener’s attention. I feel like another thing that makes this genre still relevant is when an artist is continuously dropping fire music and album and can’t be stopped, like for example lil Wayne back in the early 2010’s and even late 2000’s. it’ll always have the listeners sitting on the edge of their seats wondering what’s next. I always feel that its widely known across the whole world and it’s been around for so long, so everyone is going to give that type of style of music a try, everyone has at least two idols that main catalog is rap/HipHop, it’s been around for so long anyone is going to give it try and see if it works for them.

2. I feel like Hip Hop is still popular due to how it has evolved in the music scene. Rappers in different areas have their own sound, and artistic way of showing Hip Hop. As time moves on people will still listen due to the times, they are in. I would say Hip Hop is a timeless genre because of people of any age, race, and place, for example there are different types of sounds in Hip Hop that grab attention to others. The culture has changed a bit over time compared to now because of social media being massive now. With social media I see that many artists in Hip Hop try to grab their songs/albums to be popular due to where they get it streamed to then they get more money. Back then yes artists wanted the money, but they would their own sounds where it sounds natural, not trying to have a set trend. Unless fashion because in Hip Hop of all time is known for fashion as well where it impacts some people in their own communities.
3. I believe that Hip-Hop has retained its popularity through the passage of time because of its versatile and diverse origins. Hip-Hop came from a combination of sampling songs from other genres, mixing beats, and rapping. The lyrics can be about whatever as long as it rhymes and flows. Some artists sing and rap, some take on a more spoken word approach while others show off how fast they can rhyme. Due to this level of customization, the genre is able to constantly reinvent itself and appeal to crowds of all ages. Hip Hop also appeals to people from different origins which reflects the fact that the genre was created by a diasporic community. The direction Hip-Hop culture has taken is currently questionable. On the one hand its popularity has allowed acceptance of women and queer people in the scene which wasn’t as common before. However, the monetization of Hip-Hop culture has watered down its once counter-culture roots. Artists like Ice-Cube and Tupac had achieved stardom but still stuck to their original messages which uplifted marginalized communities. Before, you had to have something that made you a “real” Hip-Hop artist, such as musical talent, rapping skills, and you had to be a part of these marginalized communities. Nowadays there’s a plethora of sell-out rappers who stopped caring about the communities they came from and want to distance themselves from politics. There’s also white rappers who fetishize black culture and have appropriated the music for monetary gain.

4. In the past 50 years ago, Hip Hop has become a major genre in the music industry. It has grown not only in artists but also in sub-genres and has expanded around the world. I believe that Hip Hop is still popular and will continue to raise popularity in the future because it’s a form of expression that a lot of artist use to connect with their fans, express their discomfort with political and social issues, and express their emotions through beats/ rhythm. My thoughts on the direction Hip Hop culture has taken are pretty positive. I’ve been listening to a variety of different music genres since I was a kid, but lately I’ve become really interested in Korean Hip Hop music, and Rock + Hip Hop mixtures, which is something that 50 years ago probably wasn’t a thing, or at least not as big as it is right now. I like how artists use their platform to express their problems with social political issues and connect through their music and bars with others that might agree and feel the same.

5. Since, the beginning of Hip Hop in the Bronx Hip Hop was immediately spreading throughout Bronx. I think that the era of Hip Hop is still popular 50 years later because of its significant to the Bronx itself because it is an community of slang, hardcore individuals, and creative minds. Also, being that the Bronx is a place of an small population people are more accustomed to dealing with gangs and lack of community assistance so everyone is more prone to rapping about there experience and who they
are. I feel like in comparison to Chicago we are more softer than they are. What I mean by this is that they are more violent and hardcore whereas Chicagoans we are soft like we do things to a certain point. Bronx deals with a lot of police activity and being that everyone lives next to everyone and there are more head to head issues whereas Chicago is more spread out. I think that Hip Hop is also popular because since this type of music is more popular in the Bronx than other genres they resonate with gangster music more. From what I heard about New York, people are hard and have slang that is very firm so they are more equivalent to Hip Hop.

Appendix C: Responses from Dr. Harris’ HIS 107 African American History

The question was asked on an extra credit assignment. The full extra credit question was also mostly the same as Dr. Horton and Dr. Pope’s courses. However, it included a request for “at least 5 sentences”: “Hip hop started 50 years ago in the Bronx. Why do you think that Hip Hop is still popular, 50 years later? What are your thoughts on the direction the culture has taken?” (For extra credit, I need at least 5 sentences). The responses are below.

1. Hip Hop has a way of hyping people up because of the fast beats. Even if the lyrics are more reflective or sad, or if they use a sample from a slower song, the spin producers put on it makes it catchy. I also think for many of my generation of black kids, their parents grew up on hip hop, which was something new and unheard of. So when our parents would play it on the way back from school because they were feeling nostalgic, it became engrained to like that type of music. Even the hip-hop I listen to now is more 90s than it is current because now it feels like the music I listened to as a kid. I’m not huge on lyrics and understanding the meanings behind songs, but often I’ll hear lines that I think are really deep which makes me like the songs more.

2. I think Hip hop is still popular, 50 years later because it is a powerful form of expression for Black communities all throughout the world. It speaks about are experiences, struggles, and aspirations, providing a voice for ethnic groups. Over time, the culture’s themes of self-expression, social commentary, and storytelling have continued to resonate with people from diverse backgrounds, allowing it to remain relevant over the decades. Hip hop is a dynamic and constantly evolving genre. Artists and producers have consistently pushed the boundaries of music production, lyrical content, and performance styles.

3. Hip hop is still popular today because the younger generation still likes that type of music. Rap is also very diverse and has lots of sub genres. There have been lots
of classic songs that are considered timeless that keeps the hip hop genre alive. Rap also has lyrically impressive works and lots of talented artist. Those are some reasons I think rap is still alive today.

4. It's essential to acknowledge that Hip Hop has undergone various transformations and faced criticism at times. Some critics argue that certain sub-genres and artists have promoted negative stereotypes or glamorized violence, materialism, and misogyny. However, it's crucial to recognize that Hip Hop is incredibly diverse, and within its vast landscape, there are artists who use their platform for positive messages, empowerment, and social change. The culture's direction is a complex and ongoing discussion, influenced by various societal, artistic, and commercial factors. As Hip Hop continues to evolve, it's important to celebrate its positive contributions while also remaining vigilant about addressing any problematic aspects that might emerge. Ultimately, the future of Hip Hop will be shaped by the artists, listeners, and communities that engage with it, and fostering an open and inclusive dialogue will be key to steering it in a positive direction.

5. Hip hop is still prominent in our society today because hip hop speaks the truth. The lyrics in hip hop songs talk about real life issue and what our community is going through. Hip hop allows people to talk about their experiences while you're able to still rock to the music and beat. The reason hip hop is still able to live on today is because it has evolved and continues to evolve. I feel as though hip hop now has subgenres and that's why it will live on forever.

6. Hip hop is popular today because it has become such a global monument in entertainment today. It’s poetic way of placing words are what makes it so entertaining. I love the way how the genre evolves pushing the culture even more. Different artist with different styles makes style of music even more exciting. I can’t wait to see what the future holds for are culture of music.

7. Hip hop has had a profound impact on popular culture, transcending boundaries of race, nationality, and socioeconomic status. It has become a global phenomenon and a voice for marginalized communities, addressing social issues and giving a platform to diverse voices. Hip hop has also constantly evolved, adapting to new musical trends and incorporating elements from various genres. This versatility has allowed it to stay fresh and appeal to different generations. The rise of the internet and social media has democratized access to music, enabling artists to reach global audiences without traditional gatekeepers.

8. Hip Hop is still popular 50 years later because of the impact it’s had on everyone’s
lives. Hip Hop has been and will always be very influential. Hip Hop has shaped what our people have been through, and because of that it’s the most authentic genre of music. Hip Hop is the genre that allows people to feel free, feel empowered and feel strong. Hip Hop is a cultural movement that will forever live on.