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Excerpt from 'School House Rap,' 2019

In the 40 years since its inception, Hip-Hop has become the quintessential genre of music not just in America, but around the world. Its growing relevance in popular culture as well its successful use in various fields of education should serve as a wake-up call for other educators and academic institutions to use Hip-Hop pedagogy as a tool to not only educate their students but improve the education system as a whole. As a product of America's failing education system myself, I have seen how students of color have been unfairly alienated from their school's curriculum and as a result have disassociated themselves from school altogether. In order for the education system here and abroad to truly flourish, teachers and academic institutions must evolve past their traditional ideas of academic development in order to accommodate the changing world of their students. At its core, Hip-Hop has served as a reflection of the history, circumstances, and experiences of urban youth culture. In a time where academics, scholars, and educators are failing the next generation, I believe Hip-Hop pedagogy is a step in the right direction. In fact, educational institutions and teachers should strive to be more like Hip-Hop, constantly evolving and reinventing themselves to meet the demands of the changing youth culture, while always remembering their origins and true objective: arming impressionable young people with the knowledge they need to face the challenges of an unpredictable world.