JHU Splash – Freestyle Rap

Taught by Nicholas Machado, Public Health ‘18

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Course description: Rap, the condensed form of "rhythm and poetry" is the vocal element of hip hop, used to express oneself with rhymes, wordplay, flow, and statements. This course focuses on improving your freestyle, which means rapping off the top of the head.

Background Information: No experience required to take this class. Familiarity with music, whether it be through listening, playing, singing, dancing, or production, is helpful. In addition, please take this class with the mindset that everyone makes mistakes, and no one in the world is a perfect freestyler. Even Eyedea messed up from time to time.

Lesson plan:

* Introduction and overview in Classroom 11 – 5 minutes
* Open introductory cypher – 5 minutes
* Brief lecture/discussion on the history of freestyle rap, battle rap, and terminology – 10 minutes
* Personal tips and practice techniques with in-class practice on go-to’s, thinking while rapping, calls and responses, flow, rhyme scheme, dissing, and personal style – 20 minutes
* Post-rapping discussion, including individual opinions on rap, rap battles and cyphers, and the hip hop culture – 10 minutes

All questions, comments, and concerns can be directed at me through my email address.