

How to Write a RAP (for English class) – Wicht

Based on “How to Write a Rap Song” by Benz B

Content modified to fit assignment. Material in *italics* is quoted from Benz B

“A rap song can be written with either music or without music. The music is called by several names like beat, instrumental, or a track. Normally a rap song consists of an intro, the first verse, the first hook (chorus), the second verse, the second chorus, the third hook and then the third chorus is usually repeated twice.”

For this assignment we will not be writing an entire rap. We will only write an intro, one verse, and a hook/chorus. You may choose to have a track, but it is not required. You will need your rap to have a rhythm to give it flow and a “musically” quality. Even if you read instead of perform your rap, this rhythm will be imbedded in the words. It will be apparent even without music. All words and concepts must be classroom appropriate – remember your audience!

STEP ONE: The first step suggested is to write the hook (chorus). *“A hook is usually 4 bars or 4 rhyming lines. Normally the hook is where the title of the song comes from and is centered around whatever subject you thought of.”* ...Or were assigned...Beowulf!

STEP TWO: *“The average song consists of 3 verses that are 16 bars or rhyming lines long. In the verses is where you would write specifically about what your subject is. For example, if you are writing about making a sandwich then in the verses you would want to describe in rhyming detail how you made the sandwich, what topping you have on it, LOL!”*

Since for this project you only need one verse, write a verse that focuses on the aspect of *Beowulf* that you want to emphasize (his qualities as a hero, the elements that make the poem an epic poem, the important aspects of a warrior society presented in the poem).

Your verse, and/or hook, MUST contain a total of SIX kennings (minimum) from the poem, *Beowulf*. You may use them for the characters Beowulf, Hrothgar, Grendal and/or Grendal’s Mother. You may also use kennings for Herot, if it fits into your story line.

STEP THREE: *“After the song is done here is where I would write the intro. I would read the whole song all the way through and think of ideas of what could be said to summarize the song in roughly 2-4 sentences and this would be the intro.”* What he said ☺.

STEP FOUR: *“Now this is where everything starts to come together. You will now need to arrange your song. First will come the intro. The intro will be spoken during the first 4-8 bars of the instrumental, as soon as it starts.”* Next, you will say your verse, then your first hook, possibly followed by an optional ending.

OPTIONAL: *“You can think of words to add to end the end of a song to extend it like a closing similar to the intro. If you choose to do this then the last hook needs to loop about four times.”*

STEP FIVE: *“Practice singing the song several times to get familiar with the words so that it gets to a point where you almost don’t need the paper to recite the words.”* You are now ready to perform! Good Luck. Remember to have a written copy of your rap to give to the teacher on performance day.

***Beowulf* Rap Rubric**

100 points

Follows the “How to Write a Rap Song” procedure and includes all the required elements

Uses the six required kennings properly in the poem.

Subject matter is based on the epic poem, *Beowulf*, and uses parts of the story (you may use direct quotes from the poem or paraphrase or both) to communicate the message.

Author performs or reads rap to the class with a serious tone. Overall demeanor is polished and practiced, and classroom appropriate.