

Music

## **How do you compose a rap?**

A number of activities in this download require you to listen to audio clips - these are given in the lesson worksheet

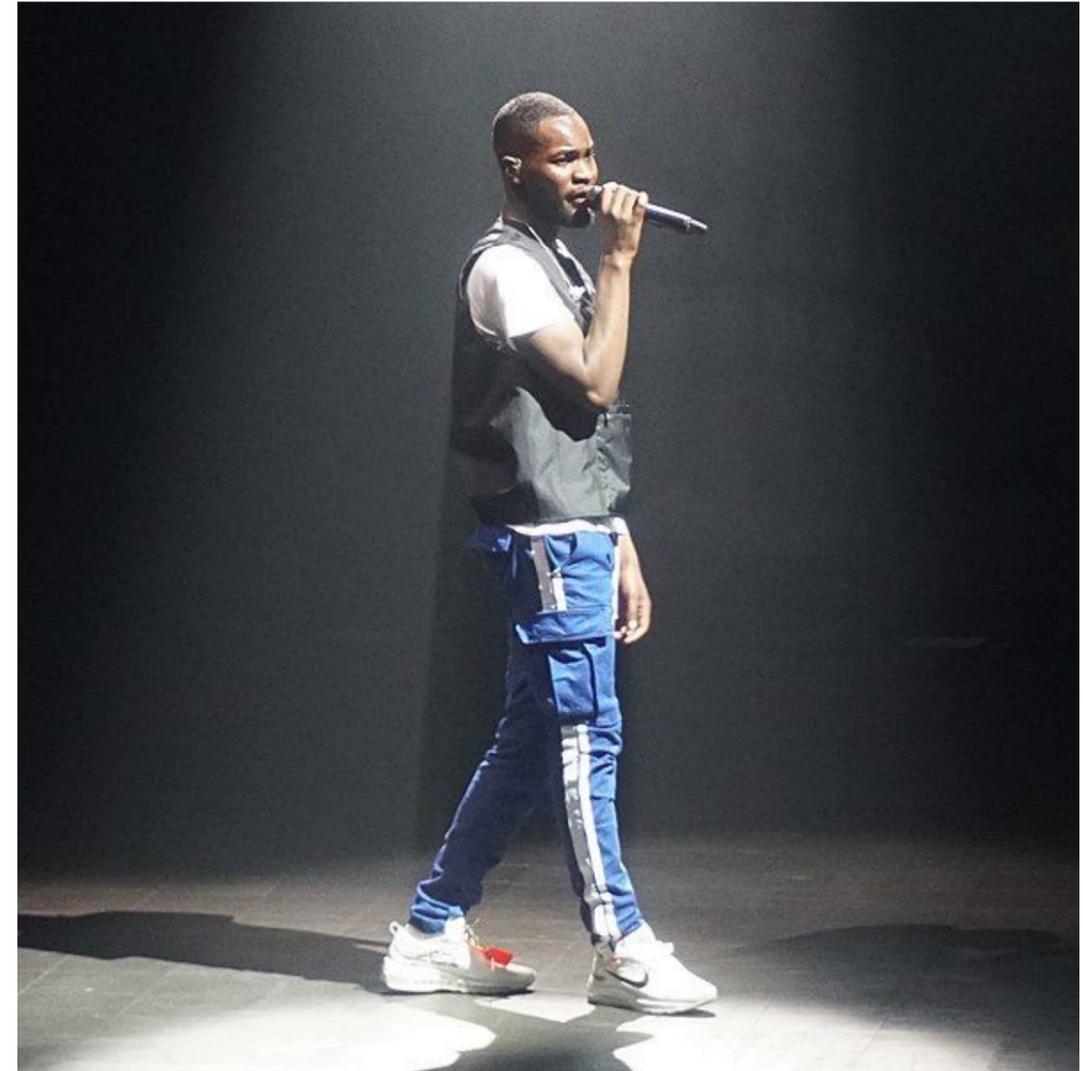
Miss Charatan



# What is rap?

Listen to 'Black' by Dave in the lesson video and answer these questions.

1. What is Dave rapping about?
2. What do you think rap is?



# Step 1: Deciding your message/point, choosing your topic

Your family

Gaming

Music

Fashion

Your heritage

Movies

Football/sport

Your manor

Social media

The environment

Skating/boarding

Racism

Gender inequality

Coding/programming



## Example topic A: your family

**Possible question:** What are some things that different members of your family told and taught you?

**Voice considerations:** Will you be speaking/writing as the family member? Or as yourself? Or both?

## Example topic B: football

**Possible question:** Who would be the 11 players that make up your fantasy league team? And why?

**Voice considerations:** Are you speaking/writing as a new owner? The manager? A sports reporter?

## Example topic C: your manor

**Possible question:** If you had 10 million to improve your neighbourhood, what changes would you make and why?

**Voice considerations:** Are you speaking/writing as a MP who has received a grant? Or as a someone from the manor who has made it big and is now giving back to the community?



# Example topic: racism

**Example question:** How can we cure racism?

**Example to consider:** written as a doctor in racism treatment.

**Example Mind map:** race, discrimination, prejudice, ignorance, the media, movies, criminals, colour, black, white, illness, disease, virus, cause, symptoms, cure, vaccine, medicine, immigrants, hate crimes, symptoms, friends, family, Trump, Nazis, skinheads, National Front, Black Lives Matter, All Lives Matter, diagnosis, cause, genetic, police brutality, prison, Africa, Europe, slavery, fear, hate, love...



# How to write a verse

- Use your **mind map**, your word bank or colour palette.
- Ask one of the **5Ws**.
  - *Who? What? Where? When? Why?...and how?*
  - Answering that one word question will help you to extend, continue, follow each idea to its topical conclusion (the end of the thought).
- Implement **listing**, ie- give/list at least 3 examples in explaining or describing.
- Use **opposites**: *up the stairs, then down the hall... chaos outside, find peace within... think global, act local...*



# Example verse

word from the mind map

what are some of the causes? (5 Ws)

eg. of listing

eg. of alliteration

eg. of opposites

what are some of the symptoms? (5 Ws)

Racism's a **disease**

a virus to be sure

to first know its **causes**

before finding the cure...

For some, the cause is hate

For others, it's just ignorance

some learn it off of their family

or an **isolated incident**

Fearing the unknown

Hating what they don't understand

Instead of braving the elements

And loving their **fellow man**

Need to start to look at the **symptoms**

If looking to find the cure...



# How long is a verse? How long is a bar?

- A bar in a rap is the same as a bar in music.
- Most raps are in  $\frac{4}{4}$ , meaning 4 beats in a bar. Many raps use **16 bar verses**.
- In terms of lyrics, a bar could be one line, or more lines - depending on how quickly the words are being said, and how long the lines are!

This example is two groups of 4 beats, so it would be 2 bars. To make 16 bars, you will probably need to write 16 lines (32 short lines like this)

**1** **2**  
*Racism's a disease*

**3** **4**  
*a virus to be sure*

**1** **2**  
*to first know its causes*

**3** **4**  
*before finding the cure...*



# How do we perform a rap?

Watch the video of Kenny's performance in the lesson video and answer the following questions:

- What does he do to add expression to his words?
- How is his performance engaging?
- What do you think he did to prepare?



# References

- Slide [2] - [Wikimedia Commons] - [SamuelWren98] - [Santan Dave]

