



Hip Hip Basics: Scat-a-Rap



Objective

Students will use nonsense syllables to arrange and assemble their own rap over a rap/hip-hop beat.

Resources

1. Watch [This Video](#) of jazz legend, Ella Fitzgerald scat singing. This should give students a deeper insight into what scat singing is and how it is used to improvise over music.
2. The Scat-a-Rap activity is rapping in rhythm over a drumbeat using syllables instead of words. This should allow for more freedom and flexibility to improvise different lines without worrying about making sense or rhyming.

Key Terms

Scat - To sing or vocalize using syllables

Procedures

1. Students will watch Josh improvise a freestyle rap by scatting and using nonsense syllables over the beat.
2. Students will then take turns improvising their own rap using the Scat-a-Rap activity. If done remotely, students can all participate while on mute. If done in person, students can pair up and take turns rapping for each other.

Extension

1. Students who feel really comfortable with the Scat-a-Rap activity can record themselves rapping over a beat. They can then go back and listen to their scat and begin to integrate words over the lines they've already created. This helps bridge the Scat-a-Rap activity with creating a fully written hip-hop verse.

National Core Arts Standards

MU:Cr1.1.C.IIIa Describe and demonstrate multiple ways in which sounds and musical ideas can be used to represent extended sonic experiences or abstract ideas.