

# SCHOOL'D BY FUNKMODE

You want to become a Hip Hop expert? Learn the info below and you're on your way, yo!

## STYLES OF HIP HOP MUSIC (PART 2)

As you've learned in previous lessons, though Hip Hop music originated in New York, it has since spread throughout the entire world. In so doing, we have seen many different subgenres and regional styles pop up in the United States and abroad. In today's lesson, we're going to continue taking a look at more of the most popular styles of Hip Hop music.

New York has a very distinct style of Hip Hop. It rarely has that party feel that some of the other Hip Hop styles listed here have. It usually focuses more intensely on the lyrics while keeping very simple beats. The sound of a lot of NY Hip Hop is based on the early break beat sounds that New York DJs like Kool Herc, Afrika Bambaataa and Grandmaster Flash made popular. If you were more familiar with Hip Hop dance than Hip Hop music, you might say that a lot of NY Hip Hop sounds like B-boy music and you would be right. Artists well known for having the NY sound are Jay-Z, Nas, Wu-tang Clan and Mos Def. Hear an example of NY Hip Hop @ <http://youtu.be/OceO8mejqs>

Speaking of Mos Def, this New York rapper has helped make popular another style of Hip Hop that we call "Conscious". Conscious Hip Hop is distinguished entirely by its lyrical content. It is always about raising ones consciousness or awareness of the different things that are happening in the world. It could be about something happening in the news, it could be about the state of Hip Hop, it could be about the challenges of living in urban areas or it could be about trying to lift oneself up to a more positive situation. Besides Mos Def, other Hip Hop artists known for this style are KRS-One, Talib Kweli, Common, Public Enemy, Tribe Called Quest, The Roots and Lupe Fiasco. The purpose of Conscious Hip Hop is spreading a message, and finding a way to better oneself through Hip Hop. Hear an example of this style @ [http://youtu.be/t66SjkE4W\\_0](http://youtu.be/t66SjkE4W_0)

One of the FUNKMODE Crew's most favorite styles of Hip Hop is fast rap. Again, this style is entirely about the lyrics. Fast Rap is like dancing over the music with your lyrics instead of your body. The goal is to try to fit many syllables into each line in a clever and creative way without breaking the flow or message. It takes a lot of skill both vocally and as a writer. Speaking quickly without messing up is very difficult, as is coming up with lyrics that flow well together and rhyme despite being so jam packed into each verse. It's easy to rhyme when you only have 6-10 words in a single line. It's much more challenging when you double that amount. Examples of rappers strong in the Fast Rap style are Bone Thugs N Harmony, Twista, Busta Rhymes, Eminem, Yelawolf, Tech N9ne and sometimes Ludacris. Hear an example of Fast Rap @ <http://youtu.be/3GqsEGB3eH8>

We'll throw in a quick run of some other styles here by example only. When you mix rock music with Hip Hop you get Rock Hop @ <http://youtu.be/cjzVb1IPyLw> (EX: Run DMC, Cypress Hill, Rage Against the Machine, Linkin Park) Another popular Hip Hop style to develop over the last decade is Christian Rap @ <http://youtu.be/JWlegokzgwE> (EX: K-Drama, Tedashii, Lecrae, Bless'Ed, Canton Jones, D-Maub, This'L) Artists like LMFAO and Flo Rida have made popular a style that doesn't even really have a name yet, but we're calling Techno/Party Hop which is made by combining electronic dance music with Rap @ <http://youtu.be/nJtJbto3mIA> Sometimes Rap music becomes more Pop than Hip Hop but still has the basic elements to keep it in the genre, like a lot of the recent stuff by the Black Eyed Peas @ <http://youtu.be/dX54zNjcpXc> And, although there are too many to mention here, people in countries all over the world are creating Hip Hop music like the Japanese group M-Flo @ <http://youtu.be/YugF59JLa-8>, the Swiss rapper Stress @ <http://youtu.be/JacRSXIUJy8> and the English rapper Dizze Rascal @ <http://youtu.be/ufIDbS6mYXo>

\*All links were functional as of 11.07.2011

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## HIP HOP WORDS OF THE WEEK

**Props:** short for "probers" which itself is short for "proper respect or credit". Giving someone props means recognizing their abilities in an area or just the need to give them credit for something. EX: "That was an awesome song you wrote. I got to give you props for that one."

**Grill:** this could generally mean someone's mouth/face or specifically mean gold teeth or any type of metal attachment to one's teeth. EX: "Little Wayne has a huge gold grill!" "I know he does! Why you have to by all up in my grill about it?"

**Bounce:** to leave or possibly to travel to a new location. EX: "That birthday party was starting to die down and I had to bounce." "Where'd you bounce out to?" "Oh, I just bounced back over to my house."

**BONUS:** Create a sentence using all words of the week

## EXTRA LEARNING

- 1) Which of the Hip Hop styles mentioned in this week's lesson do you like best and why?
- 2) Do any of these styles of Hip Hop music not appeal to you as much and why?
- 3) What style does the following song fit into? <http://youtu.be/Y7W4l0tQZps>