

Rappers & Victim Blaming Discourse

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Rap Content Used To Minimize Murders of Rappers

- Common for people to cite the types of songs and lyrics used when discussing a rapper who was killed
- “They have the money to stay out of the hood”
- Rappers gang affiliations

[Verse 1]

Don't let that Henny in my system (Nah)

I catch a body, next day I forget it (Next day I forget it)

Nigga, Dread just caught a body (Nigga, Dread just caught a body)

And that's on the gang, nigga, I was just with him, look

Free all my rilla niggas, all my villain niggas

All my killer niggas out the cage

Since a youngin, nigga, I been drillin' niggas

Ma, I'm sorry I'm stuck up in my ways

Ain't nobody ever gave me shit

With this big chip, I had to get paid

And it's 10K to go on stage

And you know the treesh gettin' laid

Context In Which Each Of The Rapper Depicted Died

- PNB Rock
- Takeoff
- Young Dolph
- Pop smoke
- Nipsey Hussle
- XXXTentacion



Counterpoints to the Victim Blaming

- Rap lyrics are very rarely verifiably true
- Most rappers that die weren't in a setting where violence should be expected
- Being a rich & affluent individual automatically puts a target on your back
- Lyrics and Lifestyles does not make a victim's murder more "acceptable"

"It's always easier in retrospect to be confident in the decisions you've made if they actually worked out. Society admires risk-takers, but only the ones whose risks pay off."

-
Young Dolph

You gotta watch everything. You gotta watch how you move, 'cause you a celebrity. You're a target now, so you always gotta do that. Just stay on your tippy toes.

-Takeoff

Why Is It Unique To Hip-Hop Culture?

There is a disproportionate amount of hip-hop artist that are murdered in the U.S compared to any other of genre of music. I believe a large part of this disparity is a matter of where a lot of rappers come from. Barring a few artist that came from a different background, rappers tend to originate from disorganized, lower-income communities.



What's the Solution to Blaming Rappers for Their Deaths?

It's the same as it is with other situations involving victim blaming. Adopting a perspective that is not of our own when analyzing the situation. There is a tendency for observers to say what they "would've" done or "should've" done. The mentality of "they were asking for it" has never been an acceptable mindset.