



# How to Rap: The Art and Science of the Hip-Hop MC

By Kool G Rap, Paul Edwards

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**How to Rap: The Art and Science of the Hip-Hop MC** By Kool G Rap, Paul Edwards

Examining the dynamics of hip-hop from every region and in every form—mainstream and underground, current and classic—this compelling how-to discusses everything from content and flow to rhythm and delivery in relation to the art and craft of rap. Compiled from the most extensive research on rapping to date, this first-of-its-kind guide delivers countless candid and exclusive insights from more than 100 of the most critically acclaimed artists in hip-hop—including Cyprese, Cypress Hill, Nelly, Public Enemy, Remy Ma, Schoolly D, A Tribe Called Quest, and will.i.am—unraveling the stories behind their art and preserving a wealth of the genre’s history through the words of the legends themselves. Exhaustively detailing the many complex aspects of rapping—such as utilizing literary tools and devices to strengthen content, battling, imagery, similes, metaphors, analogies, slang, performing both live and in the studio, word play, controversial content and punchlines, and constructing beats, singles, and freestyling—with emphasis on enunciating and breathing for unique vocal style, this remarkable book will benefit beginners and pros alike with its limitless wealth of rapping lore and insight.

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### Editorial Review

#### Review

"*How to Rap* is classic in an art that is just coming into a definition of itself. Everyone who wants to go to the next level needs this book, it's the inside and outside of the trade." --Nikki Giovanni, poet and one of Oprah Winfrey's 25 Living Legends

"*How to Rap* marks a cultural coming-of-age for hip-hop -- the first comprehensive poetics of this new literary form" -- Dana Gioia, poet and former Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts

"Filled with real tools and overflowing with inspiration... a good read even for nonartists interested in learning more about hip-hop creativity, personalities, and history, this offers insights into music and poetry... highly recommended" -- *Library Journal*

"The most incredible feature of *How to Rap* are bar notational charts that can be used to form your rhyme, flow, and more" -- *On Wax Magazine*

"Wanna learn how to be a super MC? In *How to Rap* over 100 rappers have offered their insight on the artform for aspiring wordsmiths" -- *XXL Magazine*

"How useful, amid the rain-forest-worrying deluge of books written on hip-hop theory and culture, that Paul Edwards has taken a straightforward, reasoned and informed approach to discussing the actual mechanics of rapping. *How To Rap* looks at that art form by unknitting its components--content, style, delivery and, most intriguingly, its spatial alliance with music and beats--and uses practical examples for context and analysis. Aspiring MCs will benefit most, but there are insights and observations that will appeal to anyone with an interest in hip-hop's development." —Alex Ogg, author, *The Hip Hop Years, The Men Behind Def Jam, Rap Lyrics*

"A clever breakdown of the art form of hip-hop rhymes, for anyone who is into the art of incredible raps. It's about time someone actually recognized this powerful music for its artistic ingenuity." —Speech, Arrested Development

"A complete guide to the art and craft of the MC, anyone who's serious about becoming a rapper should read this first. Proof positive that rap is more than just talking over music - a vital and vibrant expose of a much misunderstood art form." —*Hip-Hop Connection*

"If only this book had existed back in the day, I might not have become a university professor. For now, though, I'll have to settle for hanging out with my academic pals Eazy A, Chuck Ph.D., and Dr. GRE--and curling up with a copy of *How To Rap*. Watch out world, this crazy ass-prof [associate professor] is coming straight outta college." —Kembrew McLeod, professor, critic (*Rolling Stone, The Village Voice, Spin, Mojo*), author (*Freedom of Expression®*), documentary filmmaker

"Want to be a true emcee? Then pick up this book before picking up a microphone. Never before has the artform been broken down so well." —dubcnn.com (no. 1 news and interview site for West Coast hip-hop, including regular interviews with major rappers such as Snoop Dogg and Ice Cube)

"Paul Edwards's new book *How to Rap* brings a fresh approach to hip-hop lyricism that's remarkable for its depth of practical detail. What's in a namecheck? What are the pros and cons of certain metrical or rhetorical forms? What are the most common structures in hip-hop's history? With numerous examples and analyses of the hip-hop greats of the past, Edwards offers both an immensely practical introduction for would-be rappers, as well as the first detailed poetics of 'the pulse of the rhyme flow' in hip-hop. This is a foundational text." —Russell Potter, Ph.D., author of *Spectacular Vernaculars*

"*How to Rap* is an excellent, revealing read on the insights to the technical workings of rap music. I had no idea what I did was so scientific and complicated or the literary value of it. As a scholar and an educator, I highly recommend this book to any rap fans or people interested in the technical aspects of music and poetry." —Mighty Casey, popular underground rapper

"A must-have guide for anyone who ever wanted to understand the blood, sweat, and tears that can go into the art of MCing. The book lets those in the dark understand the craft of MCing as close as possible." —DJ Rasta Root, Smokin' Needles Records (DJs and produces for the likes of A Tribe Called Quest's Phife Dawg, with whom he runs Smokin' Needles Records)

#### About the Author

**Paul Edwards** holds a master's degree in postmodernism, literature, and contemporary culture from University of London and has done extensive research on rappers and their creative processes, musical theories, and lyrics.

**Kool G Rap** is one of the most influential MCs of all time, with Eminem, Jay-Z, Big Pun, R.A. the Rugged Man, and many others citing him among their influences. Frequently on "greatest MCs of all time" lists, he has appeared on tracks with numerous artists, including Eminem, Nas, AZ, Mobb Deep, Busta Rhymes, Big L, Ghostface Killah, and Canibus.

#### Users Review

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##### **Pam Boyd:**

The publication with title *How to Rap: The Art and Science of the Hip-Hop MC* has a lot of information that you can find out it. You can get a lot of profit after read this book. This kind of book exist new information the information that exist in this reserve represented the condition of the world at this point. That is important to yo7u to learn how the improvement of the world. This particular book will bring you within new era of the internationalization. You can read the e-book with your smart phone, so you can read the idea anywhere you want.

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