

2. As a class, read and discuss the article "Smithsonian's Doors Open to a Hip-Hop Beat"

a. To whom did Grandmaster Flash give his turntable and why?

b. What artifacts from American history will it reside alongside?

c. Why might that be significant?

d. What is the difference between an exhibition and a collection?

e. What distinction is made in the article between the hip-hop pioneers and the Smithsonian staff, and why?

f. Why did the museum decide to begin this collection?

g. How is the museum going about acquiring objects for the collection?

h. What characteristic do the initial contributors share?

i. Why does DJ Kool Herc say that "nobody expected this?"

j. What other institutions have collections of hip-hop artifacts?

k. How do those institutions differ from the Smithsonian Institution in terms of their scope and history?

l. Who is Russell Simmons and why was he initially skeptical of having hip-hop featured in a museum?

m. Why does he describe hip-hop as the "only real description of the suffering of our people?"

n. What issues might the scholarly symposiums address and who do you think might be invited to speak?

o. Who is Afrika Bambaataa and what role does he play in the genre's development?

p. What is his reaction to the Smithsonian project?