

## Hip Hop-Based Education & The Elements of Hip Hop

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Hip Hop-Based Education (HHBE) is youthful, energetic, rhythmic, impromptu, resourceful, and student-centered. Its intent as an educational pedagogy is to create classroom experiences that are culturally relevant to students who embrace Hip Hop as their primary culture and discourse. The five primary elements of Hip Hop—MCing, Breakdancing, Graffiti, Deejaying, and Knowledge of Self—embody how urban youth create, think, speak, move, and understand their surroundings inside and outside formal classroom settings (Love, 2012). The chart below defines each element of Hip Hop.

### The Five Elements of Hip Hop

<u>Element</u>	<u>Definition</u>
Rapping/MCing	The verbal art of expression through rhyming lyrics or spoken word.
Breakdancing	An athletic, high-energy dance style set to the break or the beat patterns of Hip Hop music.
Graffiti	Writings, drawings or tags inscribed on walls or public buildings.
Deejaying	The use of music to set the tone, educate, and excite party goers.
Knowledge of Self	The study of Hip Hop culture, music and elements, alongside examining issues within one's surroundings to create positive change in one's community.

Love, B. (2012). *Hip hop's li'l sistas speak: Negotiating identities and politics in the new south*. New York: Peter Lang Publishing.