



Rappin' to Learn

1. What's a Rap?

A rap is a song with talking rather than singing. It is also called Hip Hop music. Begin by listening to some raps to understand the format.

What about raps that are written in story books?

Bruce Lansky tells the story of a teacher with a challenging student. "She tried everything to motivate him to "get with the program," but nothing worked-until she handed him a copy of *No More Homework! No More Tests!* It was the only book he would read. His favorite poem was "*School Daze Rap*" by Carol Diggory Shields. Apparently, he read it over and over." Story chants are a great place to start rappin' to learn!

<http://www.poetryteachers.com/poetclass/lessons/raplyrics.html>

2. Write/rap about what you know.

Could be school, friends or family, or any curriculum content.

The rap must have a positive message.

Begin by brainstorming the content of the rap such as main ideas and key vocabulary. Don't worry about writing out the rap just yet.

3. Get the Beat!

Since you will write your lyrics to match a beat, select a beat in GarageBand.

Start up GarageBand. Choose New Music Project.

Save As > name rap

Delete the keyboard

Delete the Grand Piano Track - Go to Track > Delete Track

Control > Metronome (turn it off)



Click the **Loop Browser** button (the button with the open eye).

Select "**All Drums**". Scroll down to the **Hip Hop** beats.

Listen to a few loops by double clicking. When you find a loop you want to use in your song drag and drop the loop in an empty part of the timeline.



You can slow down the tempo of the beat by clicking on the tempo window and dragging the scroll bar. Try a tempo of **90** beats per minute.

Listen to the rhythm pattern of the beat you chose.
Clap it.

Now it is time to think about the lyrics.

If you write in rhyming couplets (pairs) lines one and two rhyme with each other, but not with the other lines. Lines 3 and 4 rhyme with each other, but not with the other lines. And so on. The two lines that rhyme together are a "Couplet."

5. Structure the Rap

Lyrics usually follow a format: Verse, chorus, verse, chorus.

A chorus should have a catchy punch line - the kind that sticks in your head!

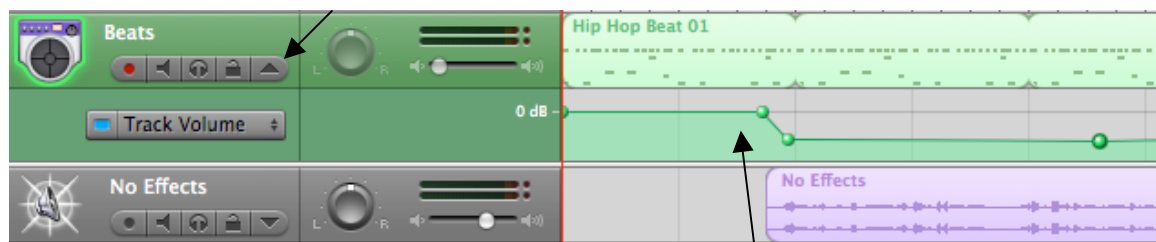
6. Put it Together

You can put the whole rap together in many different ways. Here is one approach:

- In GarageBand let the beat provide an introduction.

If your rap is a group effort - fade the beat so that it is less audible but still allows you to hear and follow the beat.

Click on the down arrow of the track.



This reveals the volume editing line (blue or green line)

Click on the line to create a bubble. Click beside that to make a **second bubble**.

The first bubble is the start of the volume edit and the 2nd line is the final volume of this edit.

You want the volume low so that you can say your rap and not record the feedback of the beat.

Add Vocals

Track > New Basic Track

- Record your rap by clicking on the **R** key for **Record**

- When done press the space bar.

- Listen to your recording and make sure beat and lyrics work together.

- When done, add other music components if you wish - bass, guitar etc. These elements should be faded somewhat when the lyrics are being featured but increase volume between verse and chorus. Make sure the tempo of the other instruments matches the tempo of your beat.

If you are rapping individually - rather than add editing bubbles to fade the beat, put on ear phones so that you can listen to the beat and then record your voice without picking up the beat.

7. Export and Go!

When the rap is finished you can **Send > to iTunes** where you can listen and copy onto other Mp3 players or iPods. Or you can **Send > to iWeb** and publish the rap on with iWeb as a podcast.

For more information check out the resources on GarageBand and iWeb at <http://web.rbe.sk.ca/support>

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