

Undergraduate Thesis Assessment Rubric

Department of English, Faculty of Education, University of West Bohemia

Thesis Author: Štěpán Zoubek

Title: Nature, From Real to Right: Authenticity, Czech Rap, and Global Hip Hop Culture

Length: 35

Text Length: 31

<i>Assessment Criteria</i>	<i>Scale</i>	<i>Comments</i>
1. Introduction is well written, brief, interesting, and compelling. It motivates the work and provides a clear statement of the examined issue. It presents and overview of the thesis.	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	And yet, I feel the thesis argument, should have exerted more thematic control over the organization of the dp. What follows is more of an encyclopedia entry.
2. The thesis shows the author's appropriate knowledge of the subject matter through the background/review of literature. The author presents information from a variety of quality electronic and print sources. Sources are relevant, balanced and include critical readings relating to the thesis or problem. Primary sources are included (if appropriate).	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	But the sources are very practical and historical, and there is not so much theoretical, or pertaining to the cross-cultural focus of your education.
3. The author carefully analyzed the information collected and drew appropriate and inventive conclusions supported by evidence. Ideas are richly supported with accurate details that develop the main point. The author's voice is evident.	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	Again, too much historical incident rather than critical argument.
4. The thesis displays critical thinking and avoids simplistic description or summary of information.	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	While there are moments of insight and even flashes of brilliance, the thesis is just too weighed down by history
5. Conclusion effectively restates the argument. It summarizes the main findings and follows logically from the analysis presented.	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	This is simple summary rather than a glimpse into the global future of hip-hop
6. The text is organized in a logical manner. It flows naturally and is easy to follow. Transitions, summaries and conclusions exist as appropriate. The author uses standard spelling, grammar, and punctuation.	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	The thesis should be refocused thematically rather than historically.

7. The language use is precise. The student makes proficient use of language in a way that is appropriate for the discipline and/or genre in which the student is writing.	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	The author is a very good writer but the thesis lacks the focus and critical insight it could have had.
8. The thesis meets the general requirements (formatting, chapters, length, division into sections, etc.). References are cited properly within the text and a complete reference list is provided.	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	There are almost no quotations, especially when it comes to secondary sources. Chapters are organized Czech style into I centrifugal chapters and subchapters that become increasingly molecular, which prevents synthesis.

Final Comments & Questions

The author should be congratulated on the depth of his knowledge, but this thesis too much resembles an encyclopedia or wiki entry. The argumentative promise of the introduction is barely fulfilled at the end and does not serve as an organizational principle to control the internal logic of the thesis. Also, I feel like there is a lack of theory outside of the realm of hip hop to guide us concerning the concept of authenticity. The insights about hip hop itself are very interesting, but there was no address to concepts like camp or kitsch (the opposite of the *keeping it real* ethos), or other "folk/volk" arts that have crossed over to the larger global canvas to make a comparison. The author is a good writer, but he seems unaware of the conventions of APA style, especially when it comes to paragraphing, quotations, and the references page. The issue of the quotations is especially troubling as without quotations from secondary sources, the reader has a hard time parsing the insights of the author from those of his research. The author is a good writer, but by removing the academic convention of weaving quotations from his research into his own prose, he removes a serious challenge that all academic writers are expected to face and it gives the reader the impression that the thesis was hurried, perhaps done at the last moment. Until the author can make his thesis adhere to these academic conventions, I cannot recommend a passing grade.

Supervisor/Reviewer: Brad Vice, Ph.D.

Date: 1.9. 2021

Signature: