“Slingshot Hip Hop”
Possible Assignments

- **Reflection Paper:**
  - Why can rap and hip hop be described as “an alternative to armed struggle”? To what extent does expressing oneself through music and literature serve as a form of protest?
  - In what ways do Palestinians in 48 (Israel-proper) feel connected to and/or different from Palestinians in 67 (West Bank and Gaza)? How do these complex feelings and identity issues affect the rappers’ lyrics and actions?

- **Lyrics, Literature, and Poetry:**
  - Choose any 2 of the songs by DAM (You can find the lyrics on their website: [http://www.damrap.com/lyrics](http://www.damrap.com/lyrics)). Analyze the meaning of the lyrics and discuss what you think is the PURPOSE of their music.
  - Read Palestinian poet Taha Muhammad Ali’s poem “Revenge” - [https://dadpoet.wordpress.com/2013/08/20/revenge-by-taha-muhammad-ali/](https://dadpoet.wordpress.com/2013/08/20/revenge-by-taha-muhammad-ali/) How do the ideas expressed in this poem compare with some of the lyrics of DAM?

- **From Reading to Creative Writing:**
  Read the 6-page overview of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict found on: [http://cmes.arizona.edu/sites/cmes.arizona.edu/files/Overview%20of%20the%20Palestinian-Israeli%20Conflict.pdf](http://cmes.arizona.edu/sites/cmes.arizona.edu/files/Overview%20of%20the%20Palestinian-Israeli%20Conflict.pdf) Then write one of the following creative writing responses
  - Write a rap song explaining the Palestinian-Israeli conflict to others.
  - Imagine that an Israeli hip hop artist and a Palestinian one are sitting together being interviewed by a television talk show host. Write a script (2-3 pages) of what such a conversation might be like. Be sure to include specific details of Palestinian and Israeli concerns and issue.
Exploring Palestinian and Israeli popular culture:

- Students can explore the teacher-created website “Arts and Identity: Teaching about Palestinian and Israeli Identity through the Arts” and share their learning with the class. https://sites.google.com/site/artsandidentity/ The website has short explanations, photos, and brief videos about all kinds of Palestinian and Israeli artistic expression: from graphic novelists to a circus school, from graffiti artists to jewelry designers and filmmakers. Click on the links on the left.