Lesson Plan Easy Access English

EAE Learning objectives for this lesson

Learn how to express regrets
Improving your comprehension

I SHOULD HAVE LEARNED TO RAP!

Introduction - Talk to your partner:

1. Do you like RAP music?
2. What kind of music do you listen to?
3. Name some Rap artists your are familiar with?
4. Do you have any regrets about your day today? 5. What would you have liked to do differently?

ACTIVITY 1 - Video and Discussion

Lets watch this video together. Then, with **a new partner**, answer the questions:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g7rACI-WJEw#t=200

1. What do you think is the message of the song?

2. Is there a specific topic or a wide range of topics?

3. Is it open to interpretation?

4. In a more general sense, what is the purpose of rap?

5. Where did Rap come from?

6. Who are your favourite artists?

7. What issues to they address?

8. Some people say that “rap is the lowest form of poetry”, do you agree or disagree and why?

9. What words are shortened in the song? Do you think this is a good or bad method used by rappers?

10. Do you think parents should monitor what kids listen to? Would you let your child listen to rap music?

ACTIVITY 2 TEAM CHALLENGE:

Your teacher will divide you into teams and give you a list of words from the song. You must write the meaning of each word. The fastest team is the winner. The losing team must compose a rap song and perform it on front of the class.

ACTIVITY 3: Rapping Activity

In small teams think about things you regret or would like to change and write a rap song about it!

ACTIVITY 4: Writing Activity

Each person will write a little story using as much of the new vocabulary as possible. It can be funny or serious, whatever you prefer.



ACTIVITY 5 - Wall Dictation.

Who has heard of Macklemore? Well, he is white, he is from Seattle Washington and he raps about social issues such as gay rights, women's rights, alcohol and drug abuse, American sports, immigration and social injustice. Does that sound a little strange to you? Well, Macklemore is somewhat revolutionary because he doesn't conform to stereotypical images of what a rapper should look like or rap about. So, lets learn some more. He started creating music independently in 2000, and he now performs with producer Ryan Lewis. Although he was not born into a musical family, he was exposed to hip-hop at an early age and started writing lyrics at 14. Macklemore released his debut album The Heist in October 2012, and he has received critical acclaim for several tracks. In "Thrift Shop" Macklemore explains that second-hand clothes are cheaper and more sensible than buying expensive name brand apparel.

ACTIVITY 6 - Lets take a look:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QK8mJJJvaes

Questions:

1. What is Macklemore doing in the video?
2. Would you ever consider shopping at a thrift shop?
3. Is it an unusual topic for rappers?
4. Can you name some of the items of clothing he raps about?
5. Do you like this song? Give reasons why or why not.

ACTIVITY 7 – Expressing regret.

Now lets use this classic rap song this song to practice using 'Should Have Done' . First watch the video
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Do5MMmEygsY !
Now read the information about **should have done:**

Use should have if you want to express a regret. A regret is a feeling of sadness and disappointment because you have done something.

Subject + should have + past participle

Subject + should not have + past participle

Should + subject + have + past participle

• I should have washed this jacket because it smells really weird!
• They should've come to the party. We had a great time!
• I shouldn't have gone to the bar last night. I have a very big test today and a bigger headache!
• He shouldn't have eaten that sushi. It was not fresh, and I think it made him very sick.

Now lets practice our use of the conditional tense by answering these questions on the video.

1. What could have been done to prevent this situation? What happened exactly?
2. What could the young people in the video do to stop this type of gun violence?
3. Should the mother in the video have to deal with this type of tragedy?
4. Should their be stronger gun laws in the USA?
5. What could be done to stop gun violence?

ACTIVITY 8 –Advice In a small group, brainstorm as many different pieces of

advice as possible for someone who wants to become a famous rap artist like Macklemore. (?) When we give advice we often use the conditional tense, for example:

"You should perhaps…"	***would…"***	***"You could…"***
	"I think you should…"	***"If I were you I would…"***
"In your position, I		

ACTIVITY 9 – Interview. Now its time to be a journalist/rap star. In pairs alternate between being the "journalist" and the "rap star". Lets use these questions to brainstorm, and then you can create your own. Are there any budding journalists/rap stars in the class, lets find out!

Brainstorming questions:

1. What springs to mind when you hear the word 'rap'?
2. Who were your influences growing up?
3. Can you explain to our readers the difference between rap and hip-hop?
4. Do you think rap is as important a musical genre as jazz, soul and funk?
5. What do you like/dislike about the rap industry, is it difficult to get into?
6. Why do many rappers sing about violence?
7. Do you think rappers get a bad rap from the press?
8. How is rap different from other musical styles?
9. Which rappers have been the most important to you, especially when you were a teenager?
10. What do you think of non-American rappers?
11. Are good rappers poets?
12. Do you have your own clothing style to match your music?
13. What topics do you like to focus on?
14. Do you think rap is misunderstood?
15. Do you have fans of all ages?
16. Do you think you are a good role model?
17. What would you say to someone who said rap isn't music?
18. Do you think listening to Rap is a good way to learn English?

ACTIVITY 10 – Hypothetically speaking… What **would** you do if….

1. What would you do if:
    - you met your favourite rapper?
    - Macklemore offered you the opportunity to film a rap video in your home town as long as you could convince him it was the right place?
2. If you were a famous singer/rapper, what social issues would you write about?
3. If you could meet one famous person, who would it be and why?

ACTIVITY 11 - No regrets Lets watch this song and try fill in the gaps. Then we will discuss its meaning. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WoImizvsj5w

Oh oh oh oh oh oh na na na na na
Oh oh oh oh oh oh hear me out

This is my King's Speech, I'm nowhere near the end
If I s-s-s-stutter, sorry I ain't heaven's sent
I messed my life up and yeah I've been down
_____Chris Brown
You know I feel your pain 'cause I've done and been through it
I'm Kurt Cobain but I just couldn't do it
No point in turning back just to hit rewind
_____Ma... Marty McFly
Deep inside, there's a _____
'Cause I'm no longer looking at a _____I admire
I paint the picture of a_____, but their's someone's looking back at me and says I'm a ____

If I should die before I wake, the least that I could ever say
I made mistakes but held on to my _____

[Chorus:]

This is my last chance, I'm on my final straw
I came so close to b-b-b-breaking like a _____

I came from nothing, some kid in Camden
Now I'm flying with the_____, Richard Branson
I'm a_____, yes I will... get the _____(Shh)
Kate stays in my dungeon when her sister's around
So please forgive if I make mistakes
But I'll blow the bloody doors off, Michael Cain

If I should die before I wake, the least that I could ever say
I made mistakes but held on to my faith

[Chorus:]

I'm free to be whatever I, 'cause I'm famous
Call me Gallagher 'cause I'm so shameless
The papers, saw the pages that are the cost of my _____
_____by the public, don't know if I could take it
So I sing
So when you feel like there's no more and nothing left but the life you've broken
No regrets, no turning back
Pick up yourself and tell them I'm just being me

"Hold your head up
There is a light in the sky
I know you're fed up
But you must try to survive
Each moment is precious
Don't let life pass you by
Keep focused
Keep your eyes on the prize"

- macklemore



ACTIVITY 12: RAP FOR SOCIAL CHANGE – Read the article together.

Rap as a Positive Influence

Although rappers like Common and Lupe Fiasco use their music to push for social change there is still a trend in the rap industry today towards complacency. Rap has had its most identifiable characteristic, resistance, stripped away and has become a culture of commercialism. The meaning of rap has been misconstrued by today's popular mainstream rappers. Many rappers today are simply concerned with the ability to generate large sales, which creates fame as well as fortune. The same social issues exist today that spurred the creation of rap culture, but modern rappers are reluctant to address these issues in their music. Although many negatives exist in regards to rap and its direction today, rap is still being positively used in many situations.

Rap and hip hop is being used within the social work Wield as a form of therapy. Hip-Hop Therapy uses hip hop culture and music to engage youth and address their issues in therapy. The goal is to get youth patients to reflect on their past experiences by connecting with hip hop lyrics.

Recently grassroots organizations have sprung up in the United States that aim to use hip hop and rap to decrease youth violence. In Tucson, Arizona, Usiel Barrios has created elementary Hip Hop Skool, which aims to use hip hop to get young people involved in community building. This program aims to empower young people with leadership skills, encourage positive self expression, and promote community involvement – through hip hop.

Another grassroots organization that has been created in recent years is, Project Spitfire. This organization was founded by Henry Mann and aims to pair young musicians with professional producers who help them record songs and videos. Spitfire also provides artists with a $100 signing bonus, photo shoots, and publicity. Spitfire aims to sign young artists who speak of change and alternatives. Their goal is to sign artists who can teach the youth that there are alternatives to gangs and violence. Mann wants to give young rappers an avenue to tell their stories and past lived experiences in hope that it will instill change in the youth culture.

I believe that the modern rap industry needs to go back to its roots and recognize rap's importance as a social form of resistance. Modern rappers should not be easily swayed by the desire to turn a profit or fulfilling the needs of their record labels. Instead they should rap from the heart or about ideas that they value. Rappers need to recognize the power of the spoken word and use it to help those that are trapped in a culture of silence. Maybe the solution is to eliminate record labels all together and put the control back into the hands of the artist.

