Rap music has received criticism for its emphasis on misogyny, materialism, and violence. But where did these ideologies originate?

Rather than rap music exhibiting a malevolent influence on society, society has poisoned the perspectives of citizens raised in impoverished communities, thus encouraging them to express their realities in a manner that involuntarily perpetuates these ideas. However, acknowledging rap music as a legitimate form of artistic expression is the first step towards utilizing it as a tool for social change. Additionally, recognizing the often graphic, unsettling, and aggressive nature of rap lyrics as an authentic representation of life for underprivileged minority citizens is the second step towards eliminating systemic racism in America. Creating a society that is critically aware of the indescribable, unbelievable obstacles faced by black and brown youth requires supporting the realist genre they created to make their stories seen, heard, and appreciated.