

# 98-303 Syllabus: Introduction to Freestyle Rap

Course Website: <https://cmucyphers.wixsite.com/introtofreestylerrap>

Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/385676652149176/>

## Overview

Kendrick Lamar. Emily Dickinson. Lil Pump. All three are impressive, yet their combined talents pale in comparison to the might of the next lyrical prodigy: You. What they attempt on paper, you will learn to do anytime, anywhere, using the strongest weapon of all: your brain. We'll start with basic rhymes, and staying on beat to help you find your voice, and slowly progress to more advanced topics such as internal rhyme, complex wordplay, and rhythmic patterns. Stick with us, and we'll turn your candy raps to certified gold bars, fresh from the forge.

But first you must answer this very important question: Can you count to 4? If so, then we can teach you how to freestyle rap! No matter your skill level or hip-hop background, we can help you hone your talents and have a blast doing it.

## Classes

Lectures take place every Tuesday at 6:30pm, in Wean 4623. Each class consists of approximately 20 minutes of lecturing, mixed with around 30 minutes of guided practice on the topics discussed that day.

## Homework

Homework will be assigned every week to further your skills. You will need to submit these assignments during one of the office hours listed below. To check for homework refer to the lecture slides by going to the [website](#) > clicking on calendar > go to date of lecture> then the lecture name (or title)

If you want to be able to freestyle well by the end of the semester, you should plan on spending at least 2 additional hours per week practicing (don't worry - this can be done in the shower, walking to class, etc., so it won't get in the way of your other schoolwork). Each homework is designed to help learn the skill, so doing all of them is necessary.

## Grading

This class is pass/fail. Anyone with at least 65 points by the end of the semester will pass. Attendance and homework are worth a combined 50 points, the midterm is worth up to 15 points, and the final project is worth up to 35. The midterm will be a freestyle in front of the instructors, and the final project will be to perform a live group cypher in front of a larger audience. **By Stu-Co College Policy, 3 unexcused absences default in an automatic FAILURE.**

## Office Hours & Other Opportunities

Everyday, at least one instructor or TA will hold office hours to help you improve your freestyling ability. Times and locations will be announced on a week-by-week basis. If you are looking for a group to practice, CMU Cyphers meets every Friday from 4:30-6:30 PM. Cyphers is a great low-stress environment where you can hone your skills, meet other freestyle rappers, and witness some dope bars (some of the instructors will be there).

To contact us, message CMU Cyphers on Facebook or email us:

**Instructors**

Taruna Emani - [temani@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:temani@andrew.cmu.edu) (OH by request)

Mitch Wiedmann - [mwiedman@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:mwiedman@andrew.cmu.edu) (OH by request)

**TAs**

Neville Chima - [cchima@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:cchima@andrew.cmu.edu)

Eduardo Flores - [josegonz@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:josegonz@andrew.cmu.edu)

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Muhammad Yusuf - [-muhammay@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:-muhammay@andrew.cmu.edu)

**Office Hours (To Turn In Homework)**

	Where	When	Staff
Monday	Wean 5304	5:30 - 6:30 pm	Neville
Tuesday	Wean 4623	7:30 - 8:30 pm	Anyone
Wednesday	Wean 4623	5:00 - 6:00 pm	Muhammad
Thursday	Wean 6423	3:30 - 4:30 pm	Austin
Friday	Wean 4623	1:30 - 2:30 pm	Uni
Saturday	Wean 4623	3:00 - 4:00 pm	Eduardo
Sunday	Wean 4623	2:00 - 3:00 pm	Darien

### **Schedule**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Week Number</b>	<b>Lesson</b>	<b>HW</b>
08/27/19	1	Flow I - Counting	Check the slides
09/03/19	2	Rhyme I - Simple, Slants, Multis	Check the slides
09/10/19	3	Sentence Construction I - Sentences	Check the slides
09/17/19	4	Delivery I - Volume and Recovery	Check the slides
09/24/19	5	Review day	Check the slides
10/01/19	6	Sentence Construction II - Topics	Check the slides
10/08/19	7	Rhyme II - Internal, Mind, Transitional	Check the slides
10/15/19	8	Midterm	Check the slides
10/22/19	9	Delivery II - Tone, Body Awareness	Check the slides
10/29/19	10	Flow II - Scat Pattern	Check the slides
11/05/19	11	Review Day	Check the slides
11/12/19	12	Level III-TBD	Check the slides
11/19/19	13	Level III-TBD	Check the slides
11/26/19	14	Finals Practice	Check the slides
12/03/19	15	Final	N/A

The schedule and dates are subject to change.