

Journal Club

03 March 03

Armstrong, E.G. (2002). "Devil Music and Gangsta Rap: A comparison of sexual violence in clues and rap lyrics." *Arkansas Review: A Journal of Delta Studies*, 33(3), p. 182.

Blues and Rap

- The purpose of this article is to compare blues and rap in terms of their violent misogynist lyric content.
- Rap has been called the blues music of the 90s.

Comparison Chart (183)

<i>Topic</i>	<i>Blues</i>	<i>Rap</i>
Class	Blues is the music of lower-class Black Americans	Rap is an articulation of the socioeconomic problems encountered by inner-city youth.
Data	Blues lyrics "never needed interpreters" Blues lyrics "name the problem" at issue	Rappers communicate straightforward meaning and avoid lyric subtlety.
Epistemology	"Well, being you're born and raised in Mississippi, you just write what you see."	Nearly all raps are retelling of what happened personally to the artists, what the artists have seen and done.
Function	The blues functioned "as a vehicle for passing on group knowledge"	"Rap music is Black Folk's CNN"

Comparison Chart (183)

<i>Topic</i>	<i>Blues</i>	<i>Rap</i>
Gender	Blues is how African American males convey the vicissitudes of life. Blues music is a "masculine discipline"	Rap is male-dominant, a haven of male hegemony. It offers a "male-centered storyline"
Ontology	Blues is not "music" but a "verbalization of deeply felt personal meanings." Blues is a "verbal- as distinct from a musical--genera	"Rap is not music per se." In rap, the words are spoken not sung. The music's basic element is the spoken word.
Self- Presentation	Blues is usually a one-sided conversation	In rap Snoop Dogg, says, "I just be convesatin"

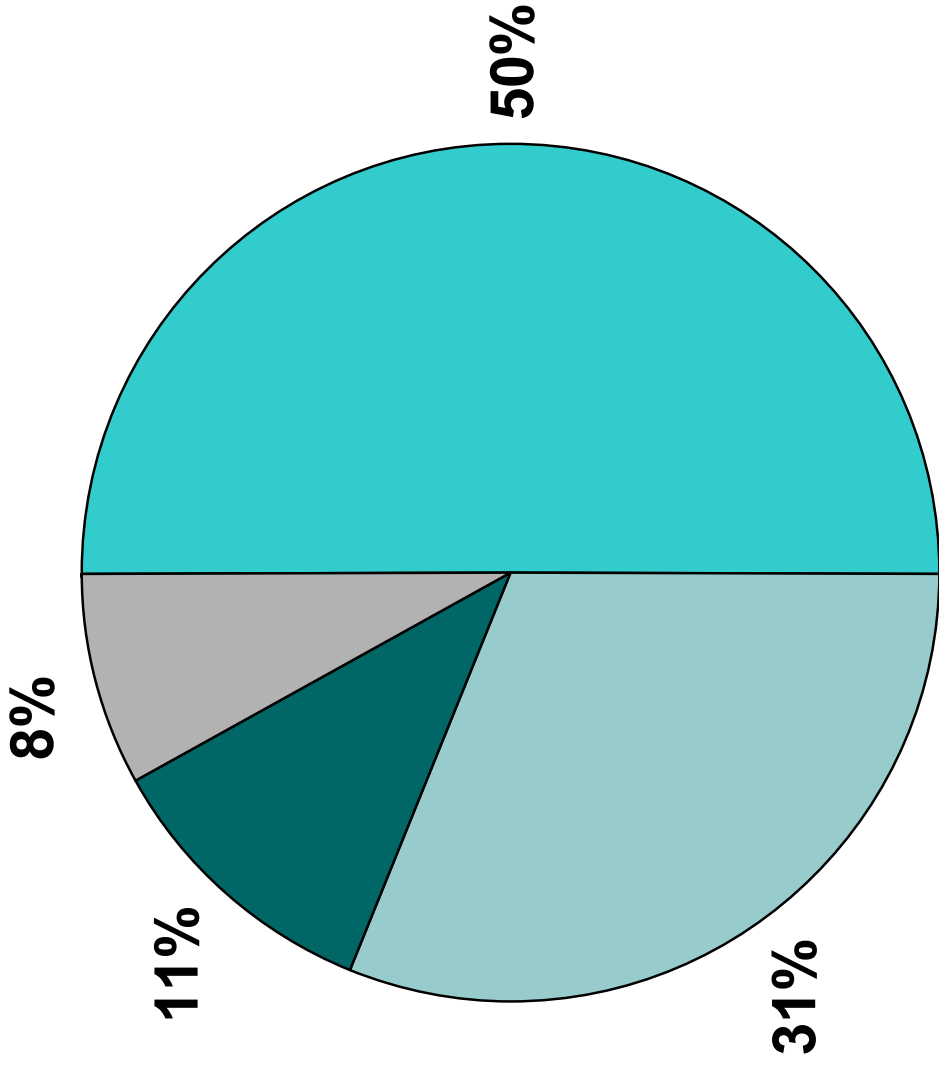
Gangsta ideology

- claimed to be an unabashed espousal of violence and misogyny and a celebration of rape culture and its “most powerful and contemporary voice.”
- rape culture is a complex of beliefs supporting a continuum of threatened violence against women that ranges from sexual remarks to rape itself.

Gangsta ideology

- Many political campaigns have been made to undermine this subgenera of music because it is “morally degraded and perpetuates stereotypes.
- Gangsta rap divides lower and middle class Black Americans.

Gangsta rap



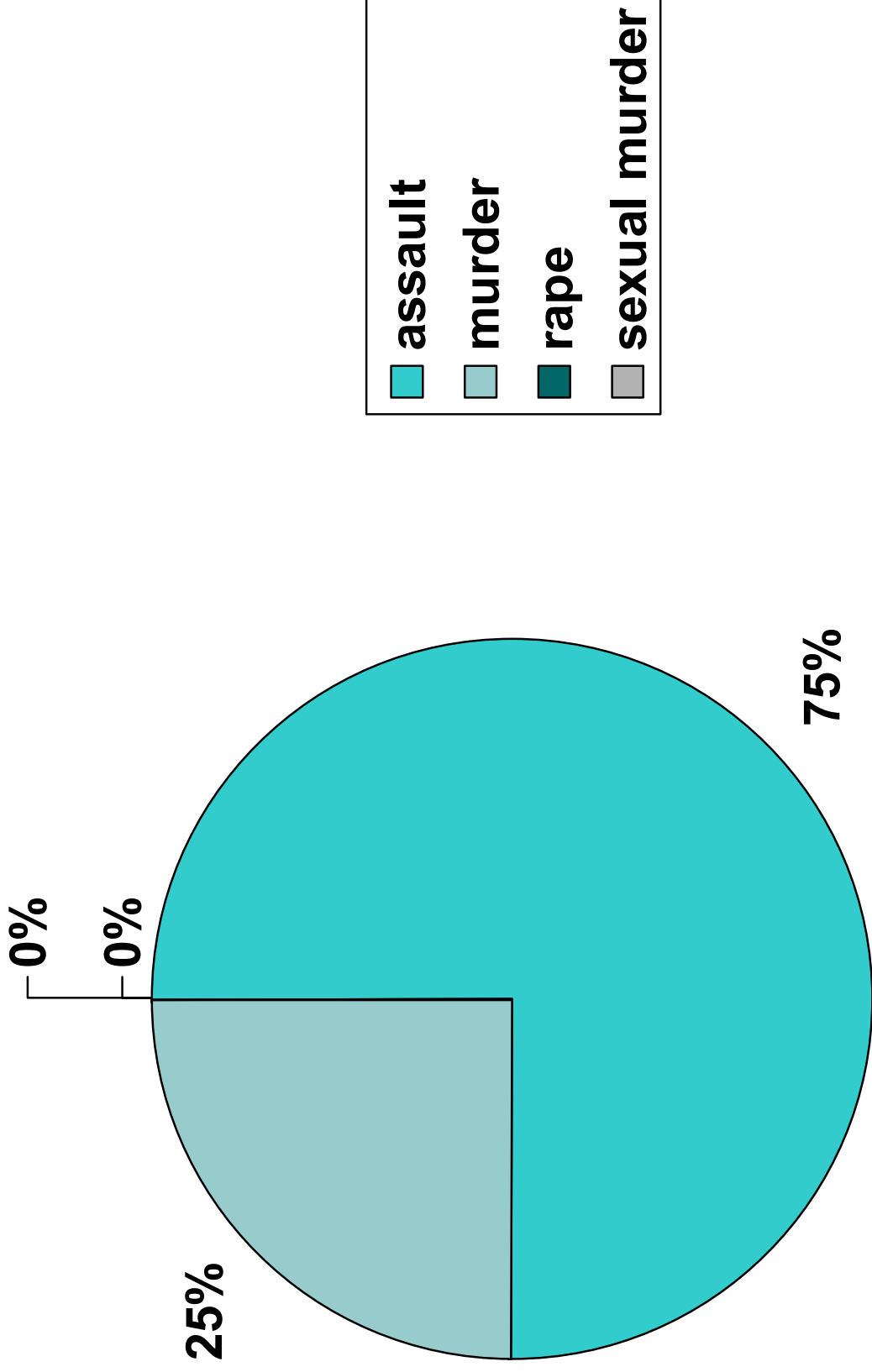
assault

murder

rape

sexual murder

Blues music



Comparison of thematic content

