My thesis statement is “How has hip hop positively effected black culture?”. Hip hop has made a definite impact on black culture in many ways with the messages that come from various artists who use it. Rappers have very powerful positions in our community, they are considered in most cases the voice of the people. Rappers living and dead, like J. Cole, Tupac, Nas, B.I.G., Common and Queen Latifah just to name a few, have been the uplifting force for black people. Verses like “During your life, never stop dreaming. No one can take away your dreams.” from Tupac Shakur, to “Sky is the limit and you know that you can have what you want, be what you want.” from Notorious B.I.G. They have been the teachers and therapist to a lot of young black people struggling to find their way.

They also are the modern day Malcolm Xs and Martin Luther Kings because they use their platforms to get the cold hearted truth of the America that the news doesn’t acknowledge. It influences the minds of black people and how we need to view ourselves in a positive light.

My BFA thesis collection is entitled “Uncensored” that consist of street/sportswear garments that are heavily influenced by the hip hop aesthetic from the 90s on to the 2000s. I will be expanding my collection from my research of the birth of hip hop to the different artists and messages they convey through music. I have varying pieces that have inspiration from the timeless looks of the 90s era with my own personal twist on them. I’m also using the word “Uncensored” on a couple of my garments to emphasize my thesis statement that is basically stating that there will be no censoring in the messages that are meant to uplift, motivate and promote self love.

Overall I have 20 pieces in this collection and 4 of which are outerwear. I wanted to explore the various possibilities of what I could do make of this statement. In the 90s everyone wore baggy clothes, layers and pieces that had wordage on it which made people pay attention and question. I have varying details that have particular meaning with the way hip hop makes a person feel. So with that being said I want my collection to have substance, not just with pieces that have the 90s and hip hop style but to be able to see the word “Uncensored” and see the details to get the message. My color story has a definite meaning as well I used black, white, burgundy and grey. Black is associated with power, white is associated with optimism, burgundy is associated with healing, and lastly grey is associated with knowledge and wisdom. I do have more of a “tomboy” style with this collection because I want it to be conveyed as a powerful force to be reckoned with. Making a noise without actually doing so.

I want this collection to solve my thesis problem in the best way possible because I am a young African American woman who understands what goes in my community and have heard about people saying certain artists have saved them from going into a dark place or helping them to push forward instead of giving up.

This collection is very important to me because hip hop is apart of my culture and I firsthand know and have seen what listening to rappers say “Keep your head up” or “Sky is the limit” or even “I know I can, be what I want to be, if I work hard at it, I’ll be where I want to be!” can do for and to a person.