

## 17. Persuasive rap

### Aim

The aim of this task is to produce a rap song using language persuasively.

### Activity

Discuss what the children think of the term 'rap'. Explain that it is a kind of song with a particular beat, using words in a kind of chant. Read the text (17a) to them in a rap beat. You may have a keen volunteer to do this for you, if you feel happier.

Give each child a copy of the text. Ask children what the rap is about. Who may have written it? Who is it to? What does the writer hope to change/improve in Britain today? Ask them to go through the text with you, picking out words or phrases, which show evidence of what the writer wishes to change. Why is the rap persuasive? (The writer points out many negative aspects of society today.) Find the negative points and put them in order of importance.

When you feel the group has a good understanding of the text, tell the children that you want them to make up their own rap song in small groups or pairs. They need to decide:

- who the rap is for
- what it is trying to persuade the reader to do
- how will language be used persuasively in the rap.

Discuss some ideas. Examples of the recipient could be the headteacher, a local MP, the Prime Minister, parents. Children could be rapping about, for example, banning fox hunting, dropping litter, polluting seas and rivers, changing playtime in some way. Write a list of ideas on the board. Give the groups 10 minutes to plan their rap using photocopy sheet 17b. After 10 minutes, pause and ask for their ideas verbally. Next, give them 20 minutes to write the rap.

### Plenary

Stop the groups and ask for a first run through of their rap songs. As a follow up you may wish to write the raps out neatly after re-drafting, or perform the songs in a music lesson using additional instruments. A performance to the headteacher or another class could be fun!

## Dear PM

I am rapping to you on this sunny day  
As there are several things I need to say

There are many things to change you see  
To make this planet a great place to be

First, you must stop air pollution  
All these fumes, you gotta find a solution!

The railways are a mess with lots of delays  
And the traffic's too fast on the motorways

You need to stop drugs and theft and other crime  
I know you are busy but find the time!

With wars going on you've GOTTA find peace  
Talk to the other leaders, at least

What is happening to the farmers' land?  
With growing demands, you gotta take a firm hand

Us citizen folk want a clean place to live  
Safe and sound, that's not much to give

Stop people being bad and treat races the same  
All this fighting is such a great shame!

For sure, you have a lot to do  
As the PM, I couldn't be you

Please hear this rap to improve our state  
Give peace a chance at any rate

I speak as one from a great population  
Come on, sort out this nation!

# Rap planner

Your names

.....  
.....  
.....

Who are you trying to persuade?

.....

Why? What do you want changed/improved/stopped?

Ideas/factual information? Quotes from other people? Changing negative situations for positive ones?

.....  
**Persuasive language checklist:**

Can you use italics, bold print, underline, capital letters?

Can you use orders? (STOP! You must...)

Exclamation marks? Questions? Positive words (eg fantastic)? Negative words (eg horrendous)?