

Class is in Session with Kendrick Lamar
Curriculum Study Guide for
Super Bowl LIX
Halftime Performance



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1. Please define the following terms and give examples of each.
 - Culture
 - Oppressor
 - Cultural Humility
 - Assimilation
 - Acculturation
 - White Gaze
2. Explain William Cross's Racial Identity Scale. What stage would you say Kendrick Lamar is in and why?
3. Review this clip of Toni Morrison's video concerning why she wrote what she wrote. Compare and contrast this to Kendrick Lamar's Superbowl performance.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oP_-m7V58_I
4. Review Nina Simone's clip on *An Artist's Duty*. Compare and contrast this to the work of Kendrick Lamar.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=99V0mMNf5fo>
5. List five symbols you observed in Kendrick's performance and explain your subjective meaning of each and why they are important.
6. How does Kendrick's performance relate to diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI)?
7. How would you describe Kendrick's style of music? How might students in a *Multicultural Counseling or Cultural Competency class* benefit from it?
8. What does Samuel L. Jackson mean by, *Let the Game Begin- This is the Great American Game*? Do you think African American/Black Americans have to play a game in order to

survive in America? Why or why not? Please provide an example of what a game would look like in today's society.

9. Why do you think Kendrick might have decided to use an assimilated video game controller pad as the stage?
10. What do people mean when they tell African American/Black Americans, "*You better stay in your place, keep your head down, and make sure not to color outside the lines.*"
11. What do you think Kendrick's song *Squabble Up* is referring to?
12. What is a cultural divide? Give examples of how this is taking place in today's society. What are some ways you think this can be overcome?
13. In many of Kendrick's videos he uses a 1987 Buick GNX. What meaning do you think this has for him and why?
14. What role did Samuel L. Jackson play and how does this role relate to marginalized and underrepresented people in today's society?
15. In what ways does the larger society critique and attempt to censor freedom of speech when it comes to vulnerable and underrepresented populations? Give examples.
16. Are there correlations with N.W.A's song, *About the Police* and Kendrick's song, *They Not Like Us*? Explain your thoughts.
17. Reflect on the various statements Samuel L. Jackson stated. Pick the one that stood out to you the most and explain why. Please ensure you speak to the stereotypical implications.
18. There are several powerful statements Kendrick made during his performance, but please focus on those below and explain in your own words what you think he meant by them.
 - *This revolution is about to be televised*
 - *Right time but wrong person*
 - *This is bigger than music*
19. What is the origin of the Crip Walk, also known as the C-Walk?
20. Compare and contrast what happened when Serena Williams did the Crip Walk in the Summer Olympics in Wimbledon (2012) versus her doing it during Kendrick's performance.
21. Out of the 3 songs below by Kendrick, listen very closely to one of them and determine what underlying meanings you are able to decipher.

- *Humble*
- *DNA*
- *Squabble UP*

22. What is Kendrick making a reference to when he says *40 acres and mule*? Explain.
23. What is your interpretation of when Kendrick makes the statement, “*They tried to rig the game, but you can't fake influence?*”
24. When you hear, *They Not Like Us* as just these words, what comes to your mind and how does it relate to culture?
25. Between these two movies *When They See Us* by Ava Duvernay and Jordan Peele, *US*, and Kendrick song entitled, *They Not Like Us*. Are there any correlations?
26. In Kendrick's performance, there are some men positioned on and around light posts. What could this represent? What does this represent for you and why?
27. From a cultural perspective, what could it mean when Kendrick says, “*Game over; turn the TV off?*”
28. If you had to sum up Kendrick’s performance in a few words, what would they be and why?
29. If you had the opportunity to ask one question to Kendrick about his Superbowl LIX performance, what would it be and why?
30. Why do you think Kendrick’s halftime performance was the most watched in history?
31. As of February 2025, Kendrick has won 22 grammy awards and a Pulitzer Prize. Why do you think Kendrick has been so successful in the genre of hip-hop?
32. What does the term *mental health* mean to you?
33. Have you ever engaged in counseling or some form of mental health treatment? What are the benefits? What are the risks?
34. What role do you think that rap and hip hop can play in a person's mental wellness?
35. How does hiding behind the mask affect “playing America’s game” in today’s society?
 - Review Maya Angelou clip “*Wearing the Mask*”. Please tie this within your discussion.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_HLol9InMlc

36. How can a person's mental health be affected if they "play America's game" on a daily basis?
37. What could happen to a person's mental health if they choose to not "play America's game?"
38. What cultural stigmas exist as it relates to seeking mental health treatment?
39. How can music be a form of coping when faced with discrimination, racism, sexism, or any other "isms" of society?
40. Are there any negative consequences associated with music and mental health?