

## Macklemore

# "White Privilege"

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Now nod your head and wake up.

I see so many people lost who really try to pretend  
But am I just another white boy who has caught on to  
the trend  
When I take a step to the mic is hiphop closer to the  
end?  
'Cause when I go to shows the majority have white skin  
They marketed the windmill, the air flair and head spin  
And white rappers albums really get the most spins  
The face of hip hop has changed a lot since Eminem  
And if he's taking away black artists' profits I look just  
like him  
Claimed a culture that wasn't mine, the way of the  
american  
Hip hop is gentrified and where will all the people live  
It's like the central district, beacon hill to the south end  
Being pushed farther away because of what white  
people did, now  
Where's my place in a music that's been taken by my  
race  
Cultural appropriated by the white face  
And we don't want to admit that this is existing  
So scared to acknowledge the benefits of our white  
privilege  
Cause it's human nature to want to be part of  
something different  
Especially when your ancestors are European  
Christians  
And most whites don't want to acknowledge this is  
occurring  
Cause we got the best deal, the music without the  
burden  
Of being black in a system that really wants you to rock  
Cause all you need is a program and you can go and  
make hiphop  
And we hate the mainstream cause we're the ones that  
took it  
Now we listen to Aesop Rock and wear t-shirts that say  
Brooklyn  
But it's not about black and white right

I mean good music is good music regardless of what  
you look like  
But when you don't give them props isn't that selfish?  
That's like saying rock was actually started by Elvis  
So where does this leave me?  
I feel like I pay dues but I'll always be a white MC  
I give everything I have when I write a rhyme  
But that doesn't change the fact that this culture's not  
mine  
But I'm gonna be me so please be who you are  
This is something that's effortless and shouldn't be  
hard  
I said I'm gonna be me so please be who you are  
But we still owe 'em 40 acres now we've stolen their 16  
bars  
Hiphop started off in a block that I've never been to  
To counter act a struggle that I've never even been  
through  
If I think I understand just because I flow too  
That means I'm not keeping it true, nope  
Hiphop started off in a block that I've never been to  
To counter act a struggle that I've never even been  
through  
If I think I understand just because I flow too  
That means I'm not keeping it true, I'm not keeping it  
true  
Now I don't rap about guns so they label me conscious  
But I don't rap about guns cause I wasn't forced into  
the projects  
See I was put in the position where I could chose my  
options  
Blessed with the privilege that my parent's could send  
me to college  
Now who's going to shows the kids on the block  
starving  
Or the white people with dough that can relate to my  
content?  
Marketed the music now adapted to the lifestyle  
What happened to jazz and rock and roll is happening  
right now  
Where's my place in the music that's been taken by the  
media  
With white corperations controlling what their feeding  
ya  
I brought up aesop rock but I'm not even dissing dude  
We love hiphop and what do you think caucasians are  
listening to  
And I speak freely when I write this  
If a black emcee examined race there goes half their  
fan base, white kids  
And this is so true. and we didn't even have to fight the

system

We just went and picked up the microphone too  
And we got good at it so we should be rapping  
But only supporting them is like burning Jimmy and  
buying Clapton  
Now Clapton's incredible. but no Jimmy no foundation  
So here comes history and the cultural appropriation  
White kids with do rags trying to practice their accents  
From the suburbs to the upperclass mastering a  
language  
But hip-hop is not just memorizing words  
It's rooted in authenticity something you literally can't  
learn  
But I'm gonna be me so please be who you are  
This is something that's effortless and shouldn't be  
hard  
I said I'm gonna be me so please be who you are  
But as I'm blessed with the privilege, they're still left  
with the scars

Hip-hop started off in a block that I've never been to  
To counter act a struggle that I've never even been  
through  
If I think I understand just because I flow too  
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