

**Take Black Things  
but  
Forget Black Names**

**By: Daijah Fleming**

# Daijah Mariah

## Who am I?

- My name is Daijah
- I'm a senior at SLA
- My capstone project, "Take Black Things but Forget Black Names", is about how in many cases society takes styles that originated in black culture without giving it the appreciation of its history and origins.

## Why choose this?

I believe that today's society is highly influenced by black culture. A plethora of people lack understanding and are uneducated on where these "fashion trends" originate from which causes cultural appropriation. Black culture includes specific hairstyles, jewelry pieces, long acrylic nails, velour tracksuits, accessories, etc. For my capstone project, I knew having a photoshoot would be the best way to capture the important points I wanted to emphasize.

# Essential Questions:

How has black culture influenced fashion trends in today's society?

How can I promote the importance and appreciation of black culture?



# Braids

- The origin of braids can be traced back to 3500 BC.
- Slaves would braid foods like rice and seeds into the hair to ensure that they could eat.
- Slaves would also design the braids as maps when they planned to escape from slavery.
- Hair braiding was used to relay messages to other slaves.
- Different braiding styles include: cornrows, Ghana braids, Fulani braids, box braids, etc.



# Durags

- A durag (do-rag) is a piece of cloth used to cover the head. It is worn to protect the hair and/or processed hairstyle.
- The origins of headscarfs like durags have been attributed to black women during slavery. They were usually worn while the slaves were working to keep the hair out of their faces.



# Bamboo Earrings (Hoops)

- Bamboo earrings, also known as hoops has its African roots dating back to Nubia and Sudan.
- Hoops became a major trend in the 1980s-90s and would sell at local beauty supply stores.
- They became a fashion statement in the hip-hop culture. Black female artist like like Salt-N-Pepa and MC Lyte brought the style into mainstream media.



# Afros



- The history of the afro can be traced back to the motherland, Africa.
- The afro reflected the rejection of notions of assimilation and integration.
- In the 1960's during the Civil Rights Movement, the Afro quickly became a symbol for black power and black pride.

# Velour Sweatsuits

- Brands like Baby Phat and Juicy Couture were made popular by black culture in the early 2000s.
- Famous black stars like Megan Good, Alicia Keys, and Destiny's Child.







# “Street” Wear

- Street wear fashion became popularized in the 1970s when the hip-hop genre flourished.
- Hip-Hop artists like Tupac, Snoop Dogg, Ice Cube, Aaliyah, and more represented the style of urban streetwear.
- Oversized clothing withhold deep roots within the black community, and stems back to financial hardships. Due to black neighborhoods not receiving a substantial amount of resources from the government, clothing was often handed down. “Hand me downs”.













*The End*