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### Sicko Mode Interpretations

The concept of rapping to create music started in the late 1970s. Rap is a musical form of singing that includes rhyming and rhythmic speech while also using words from the street (street language). Some types of rapping include straight forward rapping which involves getting to the point and also ‘gangsta rapping’ which is music with aggressive language and lyrics. A song I found interesting is “Sicko Mode” by Travis Scott and Drake. According to Wikipedia (Sicko Mode) the song was released last summer in his latest album “Astroworld” as the third song in the album in August 21, 2018 . I like these two artists due to them being able to flow with the beat properly. For instance, if the beat is more fast paced then they will try to match the beat by singing the lyrics at a faster pace. There are many meaning in the lyrics that are displayed in the song it self like showing success/accomplishment, the fact of erasing your competition and showing basketball references.

One thing that shows out is a feeling of success or accomplishment. In the intro of the song, done by Drake, he talks about an expensive item, specifically a very high costing belt. Drake states in the opening part, “My dawg would probably do it for a Louis belt, That's just all he know, he don't know nothin' else, I tried to show ‘em yeah”. This shows being accomplished since Drake is explaining how his ‘friend’ would do whatever it takes just to earn that expensive piece of clothing just to know that he actually owns something expensive and to feel good about

themselves. These acts by the friend could have some very negative consequences which is what Drake meant when he said “I tried to show ‘em”, meaning that if he/she decided to go along with doing what Drake said to do, something bad could’ve happen to them like being arrested. Maybe Drake asked his friends to do these actions just to benefit himself and have nothing to do with the scene. Also with this line Drake shows that his friend doesn’t know any better since he ‘tried to show them’ but it didn’t work since his friend was use to doing acts like these. Another time Travis Scott talks about accomplishment is when he says in Verse 2, “All of these hoes I made off records I produced, I might take all my exes and put 'em all in a group”. Here Scott is simply showing how all the music he has made has made all the girls want him, as he refers to those girls as ‘hoes’. This lyric is very important in my opinion since it shows the people listening to the song how much success he has had over making music. There are other interpretations to this line by websites that are similar to what I said about the lyric. For instance, according to Genius, they say that this line could be about Rihanna since Scott co-produced in her song “Woo” from her album Anti in 2016 and that in 2015 they dated. I guess Scott is showing his success with this because eventually that song went to 15th place in the Billboard Hot 100.

Another thing that stands out for me is the process of trying to get rid of your opponents. In the third verse of the song with both Travis Scott and Drake, Drake states, “Jesus Christ, check over stripes...lost my respect, you not a threat”. Here Drake is trying to show the ‘beef’ between himself and Kanye by saying that he prefers to wear Nike shoes rather than Adidas which is the shoe brand that Kanye is part of. The whole argument between the two rappers has many reasons as to why is started like Drake being spotted with Amber Rose who was dating Kanye two months prior to that says Daly in her blog. I felt like it was creative for Drake to

represent the shoe brands by describing their logos checks being the Nike logo that everyone is familiar with while striped being the three parallel lines from Adidas. I also like how he does a little trash-talking by saying that Kanye is not a concern for him at all and has no respect for him no more even after they produced music before in the early 2010s.

The final thing that caught my attention was the references to the sport of basketball in the song. In the intro Drake says, "Goin' on you with the pick and roll". In basketball this term refers to a certain type of play done in the sport by two players where one player is receiving the pass. In my opinion, I feel like this is said by Drake for two reasons. One has to do with the song being about bringing out a competitive factor and going 'try hard' ( trying your absolute best at something ) just like how the sport of basketball is where everyone is always trying to win and will do whatever it takes to achieve that. The second reasoning has to do with Drake being from Toronto and liking his hometown team the Toronto Raptors which is a basketball team from there in the NBA. It was creative how drake said this line in the end of the intro due to the fact that he passed on the microphone to Scott just like in this basketball move where you give the person the ball and let them take over.

In essence, the song Sicko Mode by Travis Scott and Drake had many meanings in the song itself which some were somewhat understandable while others took sometime trying to understand what it meant. The three meanings included, being successful in attaining your intentions, trying to show how your enemies are nothing to be worried about and the connections between basketball and the artists. I liked how the song went along with the background of the album where the album cover was a picture of an amusement park and in this song, there were

beat and tempo changed that made it feel like it was a rollercoaster. The tempo had a more faster than medium speed which is what I like in music so songs could keep my interest.

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