

Tracing Orality: Examining the Roots of Patricia

Smith's Slam Poetry

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Thesis

By examining the similarities and differences between Smith's slam poetry and oral traditions, this new genre can be understood in a different context, adding value to slam poetry despite its operation outside of academy.

“[Slam poets] are not real writers because they’re not busy publishing their poems until they disappear, creating a verse to decorate the parlors of the rich and bloodless”- Medina and Rivera (xix).

Authorship and Identity

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“The storyteller tells from experience-his own or reported by others-and turns it into the experience of those who are listening to his tale” -Walter Benjamin (87)

Performance



Conclusion

- ❖ Harkens back to oral traditions
- ❖ Similarities between storytellers, performance and composition, and audience
- ❖ Power of the spoken word

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Works Cited- Images

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