Hip Hop Planet

1. What rhetorical strategies does McBride use in his lead (the opening paragraph) to establish his persona and credibility? Consider irony, hyperbole, metaphor and colloquialisms.
2. Why do you think McBride call the first section of his essay “High-Stepping”? In what ways does he play on the phrase? How do the rest of the essay’s section names relate to their content?
3. McBride transitions from the personal to the historical several times in “Hip Hop Planet.” How does he achieve these transitions? What are some of the strategies he uses to make the transitions?
4. McBride names a dozen rappers in paragraph 11. What is the effect of mentioning all these names?
5. Find examples of figurative language in “Hip Hop Planet.” How does McBride use them to connect to his audience and achieve his purpose?
6. How would you characterize henry Rosenkanz, from Dayton, Ohio, whom we meet in the “Cosssover”? How does Rosenkranz help McBride establish his own credibility? What about Assane N’Diaye, the young Senegalese man whom we meet in Full Circle”?
7. What is McBride’s central argument? What are his secondary arguments? How does he bring them together?
8. How does McBride use cause and effect to provide the reasons for hip hop’s development?
9. Look carefully at paragraph 12. How does McBride’s style mirror the paragraph’s subject matter?
10. McBride is a novelist as well as a memoirist and essayist. What techniques of fiction does he employ in “Hip Hop Planet”? What are their effects?
11. McBride ends the essay with a question. Why do you think he gives that question its own paragraph?
12. Who is the likely audience for this essay? How does McBride consider his audience throughout the essay?