In Joan Morgan’s article, “From Fly-Girls to Bitches and Hos”, Morgan discusses the complex sexism in the hip-hop industry and how it degrades women. She examines women’s actions and brings up the idea that women need to change the way they act in order for men to change the way they speak about them. She further suggest that the manner in which feminist view rap has to change to see past the message of the music and understand where music is rooted. Morgan also claims that most of the music in the hip-hop industry influences people. As she states in the article, “What passes for “40 and a blunt” good times in most of the hip-hop is really alcoholism, substance abuse and chemical dependency.” (Morgan, 456) This quote shows how most African American teens are influenced to do drugs because of what the lyrics says. Most of the time the teens who listen to these songs, consider themselves “G’s” and are the ones who usually refer a females as hoes and bitches.

Many women today have dressed in a way where many men easily point them out as hoes and sluts. In this article, Morgan states “It’s time to stop ignoring the fact that these rappers meet women daily who reaffirm their depiction of us in vinyl” (Morgan, 458). Morgan is targeting women and their actions as the main issue to why they are portrayed that way. One can disagree
because many women listen to songs today and go out and do what the song says because they believe that is how they will be liked by men. The idea that women influence and support rappers is questionable because one can argue the opposite. Men write songs about the ideal women they want, or the bad experience they had with one woman so they belittle them all. Over the years, sexism is getting worse. Starting off with one calling a woman a hoe and escalating to 100 men calling them hoes. It is ironic when people say women persuade men to belittle them yet there are many men artist today starting trends to belittle women. For example, the song ‘No Hands’ by Waka Flocka Flame says, ‘Girl drop it to the floor I love the way yo booty go’. These songs play in clubs and women dance to the song and do as the song says, then they are called hoes. That is why it is controversial whether men write songs based on how women act or if women act that way because they are influenced by what the song says.

Today, many of us hear men in the music industry degrading women, and nothing is ever done about it but strongly agree that it’s not the right thing to do. Women can’t be blamed for what the men say about them because they have no control over what they want to write about. Rappers only write lyrics about women being “bitches” and “hoes” to belittle them, but never write about the women who are being successful today. For example that song by YG “Bitches Ain’t Shit”, the rapper constantly says the word “bitches” referring them to women. People continuously listen to that kind of music and it is why they refer to women as bitches. Morgan tells us “Men who can only see us as “bitches and “hos” refer themselves only as niggas.” (Morgan, 457). This clearly illustrates how in order for men to respect women, they need to respect themselves. Otherwise, men will continue to degrade women and it will just become worse over time when writing lyrics over time.
When we listen to hip-hop, some of us don’t really think that what the rappers are saying is because they have gone through it, but simply think they just want to say it. Morgan says that people need to get past the lyrics in order to understand the true meaning. Again she chooses to defend rappers, there are many ways people get their point across, there is no need to insult women, curse, etc. Rapping is a way to speak up about issues, it is a way of protesting. Protesting can be both violent and nonviolent and have the same impact on people, like rapping. We may not see it, but there are many rappers who get their point across and protest what is going on around them without insulting anyone. For example, famous hip hop figure, Tupac Shakur wrote many songs but one of his most famous songs was, ‘Dear Mama.’ In ‘Dear Mama’, Tupac writes, “I finally understand for a woman it ain’t easy tryin raise a man. You always was committed, A poor single mother on welfare, tell me how ya did it. There’s no way I can pay you back.” To this day, many people listen to ‘Dear Mama’ which shows the impact it has on people. Tupac expresses how one should love their mothers and appreciate them. Tupac was idolized by many people and names possible the greatest rapper in hip hop industry. That goes to show how rappers can express struggles and feelings without belittling others. Degrading women in lyrics is unnecessary and continuing to do so only shows the lack of progress in this generation and the lack of change in further ones.

In conclusion, we are in a generation where men continue to degrade women, in this case they do it through hip-hop. We want our generation to better into respecting each other and not get worse by degrading women. In order to change this cycle, men have to respect themselves first, to have respect for a women. If men change their actions and language towards women, women will not have the need to “fit in” to the standards hip-hop music has created.
Work Cited

Flocka Flames, Waka ‘No Hands’

Morgan, Joan, “From Fly-Girls To Bitches and Hos” *Rereading America: Cultural Context for Critical Thinking and Writing*. 9th ed. (456)

Morgan, Joan, “From Fly-Girls To Bitches and Hos” *Rereading America: Cultural Context for Critical Thinking and Writing*. 9th ed. (457)

Morgan, Joan, “From Fly-Girls To Bitches and Hos” *Rereading America: Cultural Context for Critical Thinking and Writing*. 9th ed. (458)

Shakur, Tupac ‘Dear Mama’

YG, ‘Bitches Ain’t Shit’