

Kanye West: A Musical Genius  
Exploring Philosophical Perspectives

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Abstract

This paper explores why Kanye West is considered a musical genius. Kanye west is an iconic figure in the music industry. The paper dives into his musical innovations and lyricism but also dives into examining the philosophical elements that are embedded within his work. Kanye's ability to pass traditional boundaries in music and integrate philosophical themes is the main point of this paper.

The first paragraph examines Kanye's contributions to the music industry while also analyzing his experimentation with sound, production, and the amalgamation of diverse genres. It explains his early career and then goes to pivotal albums. Then it takes a deeper dive into his influence on hip-hop and popular music

The second paragraph dives into the lyrical side of Kanye's work. Through an examination of personal struggles, societal commentary, and cultural references, the paper shows how his lyrics serve as a way to convey philosophical ideas and personal experiences.

The third paragraph examines the philosophical undercurrents in Kanye's music. Exploring existentialist themes, individualism, and self-expression through symbolism, metaphor, and allegory, the analysis dissects how Kanye challenges societal norms.

The fourth section shows how Kanye has had an impact on shaping the industry. Also this paper shows his role in the evolution of hip-hop and his contributions to the broader artistic realm, encompassing fashion and visual art.

In Conclusion, this paper dives into why Kanye is considered a music genius. This paper recognizes his innovations, lyricism, and profound philosophical underpinnings, which define his legacy in the music world.

In the music industry, it is hard to stand out and make a name for yourself. It doesn't matter what genre you are in; it is the same for everyone starting off. Everyone's songs eventually start to blend into each other, and you start to forget who sang what, unless you are one of the greats. A musical genius they would

call you, and that is exactly what Kanye West is. Kanye is a Grammy-winning American rapper, but he is not just a rapper. He is also a producer, singer, author, songwriter, and a fashion designer. In this paper we will explore why Kanye West is considered a musical genius by examining his groundbreaking innovations in music and by analyzing the philosophical elements that contribute to his geniuses.

Kanye Omari West was born on June 8<sup>th</sup> in 1977 and grew up in Chicago, Illinois. According to the Voge.com website Kanye started rapping in the early 90s. He performed with the rap group Go Getters with Chicago natives GLC and Really Doe. Later in his life, Kanye would become known for the tracks he would produce for artists like Alica Keys, Twista, Talib Kweli, and the one who believed in him the most, Jay Z. Some songs Kanye worked on made it onto the billboards and some are just well known. Some examples of songs Kanye West worked on are, Jay-Z's "Never Change" (2001), Jay-Z's "The Bounce" (2002), Talib Kweli's "Get By (Remix)" (2003), Jay-Z's "Excuse Me Miss Again (Remix)" (2003), Twista's "Slow Jamz" (2003), Janet Jackson's "My Baby" (2004), Usher's "Confessions Pt. 2 (Remix)" (2004), and so much more.

Beyond the beats, Kanye West's lyrics are something to dive into. In each song Mr. West tells a story, whether it be from personal struggles, or societal commentary, or maybe just cultural references. Kanye's lyricism isn't just poetry, it's a philosophical exploration of the human experience. In one of Kanye's earlier releases called "All Falls Down" which appears on "The College Dropout" expresses a vulnerability that resonates on a deeply personal level. Kanye's willingness to expose his own vulnerability and imperfections creates an intimate/real connection with the listener. As Kanye kept making music his storytelling through his lyrics became even better. "Runaway" from 'My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy' is a exploration of personal flaws and the struggle for self-acceptance, embodying the ethos of philosophical introspection. In this track Kanye sings "And I always find Yeah, I always find Yeah, I always find somethin' wrong" he is telling us how in every good situation he looks for the flaws and for the negatives. Later on in the song, he sings "Baby, I got a plan, run away fast as you can". Which just goes to show how he is struggling with opening up and accepting good, so he pushes them away and tells them to run away from the relationship.

Beyond the amazing beats and the storytelling lyrics Kanye West's music is a canvas for profound philosophical expression. His work engages with existentialism, individualism, and self-expression, creating a tapestry of ideas that transcends the boundaries of traditional music. Kanye expresses this through symbolism, metaphorical storytelling, and allegorical compositions. He also gives listeners the chance to wonder about the deeper philosophical meanings that hide deeper into the songs. Tracks like “No Church In The Wild” from the album “Watch The Throne” and “POWER” from “My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy” show themes of societal structures and power dynamics. Kanye shows that he is unafraid to challenge things like societal norms and that he is also unafraid to question everything, including our very own existence. In "Ultralight Beam," the examination of exploration of faith and spirituality adds yet another layer to his philosophical resume, creating an immersive experience that resonates with listeners on a spiritual level.

Kanye West's impact on the music industry extends far beyond his albums and tracks. He is a trendsetter, or as some people like to call him a visionary for fashion and music. From the iconic and unforgettable YEEZY fashion empire, Kanye's influence shows through multiple brands and is seen in his family and friends. In the music industry, Kanye's production techniques have set new standards for everyone else. Collaborations with diverse artists, such as Bon Iver, Lohm Legend, Rick Ross, Frank Ocean, Beyonce, Jay Z and so many others just shows his commitment to breaking down barriers and having a collaborative spirit within the music industry.

Kanye West's music is a philosophical playground. He has not only set the standards higher for everyone in the music industry, but he has also created a blueprint for future artists. He has also most definitely left his mark on the fashion industry as well. I full heartily believe that after everything Kanye West has accomplished in music, he is so deserving of the title musical genius.



## Bibliography

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