

# **Chapter 10: Sampling Sound, Text, and Praxis: Student and Teacher as Producer in a (Somewhat) Open-Source Course**

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## **1. Sample Assignment One: Responding to Sound & Soundwriting (A Gateway Activity) by Anonymous**

A song in the playlist I really enjoyed was “Never Catch Me” by Flying Lotus, which featured Kendrick Lamar and Thundercat. As soon as the music started, I noticed jazz influences, firstly with the instrumental intro to the song, featuring some classic bass and piano elements as well as modern beats mixed in. There are several points in the song where the lyrics stop and we enter a really interesting breakbeat which to me feels like freeform hip-hop, which I really enjoyed. Our traditional jazz elements are combined with wavy electronica, layered under vocalizing singers adding an extra layer of soul—this is where I really see the old combining with the new. The “melt-y” sort of sound I notice in these breakbeats signifies to me a change of context: taking our ideas of classic jazz and melting them together with modern mixing and contemporary soul to give us a song with an entirely new message. As Tate states in the article: “DJing has evolved . . . it’s become much akin to 60’s freedom jazz.” I think this statement is especially true in regards to this work, as I mentioned before, the music alone in this is similar to avant-garde jazz in its no-holds-barred approach to its breakbeats. The song itself is both experimental and free, while simultaneously purposeful and deliberate, and therefore encapsulates why and how jazz is relevant today.