

## A Chance in the Western World

Kanye West. Ye. Yeezy. Yeezus. God. In the eyes of many, all of these names are synonymous. Kanye Omari West was born an only child to educated middle-class parents, Ray and Donda West. He was born in Atlanta, Georgia and resided in Chicago, Illinois until he reached stardom (Collins). Life-changing events, including his parents' divorce and his mother's passing in 2007, led West to achieve more than he had ever dreamed of – this mindset was proven to the world in his most recent album *The Life of Pablo*. But let's not get ahead of ourselves, now. One short walk to Chicago's West Chatham neighborhood will lead you straight to Chancelor Bennett, a 23-year-old rapper who grew up with loving parents, lavish opportunities, and a lot of trouble (Chance the Rapper). Chance was suspended for 10 days during his senior year of high school for hanging with the wrong crowd and while this posed as a minor setback for him in terms of academics, it was what helped him record his first mixtape. When it comes to Chance the Rapper, life experiences – both good and bad – were what shaped his success and development as an artist, as seen in his latest mixtape *Coloring Book*.

While both West and Chance have experienced setbacks in their lives and managed to come out triumphant, the analysis of their recent works hints at the notion that their similarities may not exactly correlate with the types of success they have created. West might have graced the cover of TIME magazine while Chance was featured on Billboard, but what really matters is the influence they have on their audiences (Collins). A look at the comparison between *The Life of Pablo* and *Coloring Book* reveals the strikingly different trajectories the two artists' careers have taken and the extent to which their actions have socioculturally influenced the world. Despite having a profound meaning behind the madness, the surface level first-impression that *The Life of Pablo* brings to the table is that of West's projected misogyny and lyrics that aren't for the faint of heart.

**Commented [HSA1]:** "Kanye West" as a definition overlaid videos with white block letters; videos will progress from humble Kanye to Kanye in "Power" music video; "Amazing" playing in the background

**Commented [HSA2]:** Pictures of Kanye as a baby, with parents, holding awards

**Commented [HSA3]:** Videos singing "Hey Mama" with Donda, heartbreaking Grammy performance, and videos showcasing West's triumph; "Hey Mama" playing in the background

**Commented [HSA4]:** Picture of album art, clips of Life of Pablo songs

**Commented [HSA5]:** Freeze frame of Kanye interrupting Taylor Swift, then in reverse with reverse sound effect

**Commented [HSA6]:** ~30 SECOND MARK

**Commented [HSA7]:** Start playing "Favorite Song" instrumental, show clips of West Chatham from "No Problem" music video, clips of Chance on streets before he got famous

**Commented [HSA8]:** Pictures of Chance and Dad with Obama

**Commented [HSA9]:** Videos/pictures of Chance "in trouble"

**Commented [HSA10]:** Video of chance at Akin, then show picture of 10 Day album art

**Commented [HSA11]:** Videos of Chance's MCWT, picture of Coloring Book album art

**Commented [HSA12]:** Individually, show videos of West and Chance's struggles

**Commented [HSA13]:** Picture of Billboard

**Commented [HSA14]:** Videos of Kanye and Chance at their concerts

**Commented [HSA15]:** Videos of TLOP music videos

Furthermore, West's bandwagon continues to slowly transform into cut-throat, materialistic monsters valuing what West believes is popular. On the flip side, *Coloring Book* mixes the fun of being an underdog in the rap game with the experiences of Chance's growth as an artist, religion, and the joys of fatherhood. Chance has quickly corralled a large audience that embodies hope, optimism, and good vibes.

Commented [HSA16]: Videos of Yeezy merch, fans, and outrageous prices

Commented [HSA17]: Videos of "No Problem", Chance having fun

Sure, the differences between the two artists spotlight their varying career paths – Kanye West's "I succeeded – I am the greatest" mindset inspires others to be passionate about what they love. On the other hand, Chance's "I succeeded – you can, too" mindset reminds others that anything is possible. However, amongst all of their differences, one thing is certain: both West and Chance have revolutionized the music industry along with the world's perspective on rap music. Kanye West and Chance the Rapper influence society in ways that seem unreal, inevitably bringing "God dreams" to life (*The Life of Pablo*).

Commented [HSA18]: Video of Kanye being cocky

Commented [HSA19]: Video of heart-to-heart conversation with the audience from Chance's Houston concert

Commented [HSA20]: Videos of Chance and Kanye together

Commented [HSA21]: Video of Kanye and Chance performing Ultralight Beam

## Bibliography

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Thomas Riggs. 2nd ed. Vol. 5. Detroit: St. James Press, 2013. 336-337. *Gale Virtual Reference Library*. Web. 6 Oct. 2016. <<http://bit.ly/2cV5H1w>>.

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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JCYAjGnvc7U>

<http://heightline.com/wp-content/uploads/Kanye-West-and-Mom-Donna.jpg>

<http://s1.ibtimes.com/sites/www.ibtimes.com/files/2016/02/16/kanyewestdimitrioskambourisgetty.jpg>

<http://www.missinfo.tv/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/chance-the-rapper-billboard.jpg>