



Assignment

Determine a Central Idea from Informational Text

Topic: Nipsey Hussle

Your Assignment:

Read the passage. Then answer the question.

Nipsey Hussle's Marathon

By Paul Bess

It has been said of Nipsey Hussle that he will be more famous in death than in life. Born on August 15, 1985, Ermias Asghedom (publicly known as Nipsey Hussle), began his life in the Crenshaw area of South Los Angeles. Nipsey said that growing up there was like growing up in a war zone, and he wanted to change the community.

However, Nipsey did not always want to do so. After dropping out of high school, he became a member of the Rollin 60's Crips gang. He slowly began his hip hop and rap music career during this phase of his life. Things changed for Nipsey when his father took him on a months long trip to East Africa. It was then that Nipsey decided to become a community activist and entrepreneur. The name Ermias means "God is rising".

Nipsey was on a mission to change South Los Angeles. Although known for being a former Crips gang member, Nipsey was able to bring gangs together. He was scheduled to meet with the Los Angeles Police Department and Roc Nation (Jay-Z's agency) to talk about how they could reduce violence in the community. Shortly after his death on March 31, 2019, rival gangs went on a unity walk in the community in celebration of Nipsey's life.

Reducing the influence of gangs on the community wasn't the only thing Nipsey was working on. He invested a lot of the money he earned from his music into redevelopment of the community. He bought a strip mall at the intersection of Crenshaw and Slauson Boulevards, and he opened Marathon Clothing in 2017. It was there that he aimed to employ people who were homeless or those who were newly released from prison. Ironically, Nipsey was shot and killed in the parking lot of that store. He had made a quick trip there to get clothing to give to someone who had just been released from prison.

Nipsey Hussle wanted things to be different for the kids living in the Crenshaw area now. He wanted other options for a lifestyle other than gangs, sports, and music. Recently he opened a STEM and business center there called Too Big to Fail. The name comes from the idea that inner cities are really "too big to fail", but the resources to change them into thriving communities do not exist. He was changing that. His pursuit to make things better was a marathon.

Nipsey saw opportunity down the road for when the metroline would be extended through the Crenshaw area. He planned to have his strip mall torn down, and in its place he was going to build a mixed use building with low-income housing, shops, and restaurants. Nipsey was not done yet.

Since his passing, his album Victory Lap (Grammy nominated for Best Rap Album in 2019) rose to #2 on the Billboard 2000. Barack Obama wrote a letter that was read at Nipsey's memorial service- praising his contributions to South Los Angeles. Representative Karen Bass entered Nipsey's record of community service and contributions into the Congressional Record saying that his legacy will be, "part of the United States' history forever".

Answer this question:

Stem Starters:

You may want to consider starting your response using one of these stems. You do not have to do so, but they are here to help you if you need them.

The author's central idea is...

The central idea is...

Your Response:
