I Ain't No Joke

Eric B. & Rakim

I ain't no joke, I use to let the mic smoke
Now I slam it when I'm done and make sure it's broke
When I'm gone no one gets on 'cuz I won't let
Nobody press up and mess up the scene I set
I like to stand in a crowd and watch the people wonder, damn
But think about it then you'll understand
I'm just an addict, addicted to music
Maybe it's a habit, I gotta use it
Even if it's jazz or the quiet storm
I hook a beat up convert it in to hip-hop form
Write a rhyme in graffiti in, every show you see me in
Deep concentration 'cuz I'm no comedian
Jokers are wild if you wanna be tame
I treat you like a child then you're gonna be named
Another enemy, not even a friend of me
'Cuz you'll get fried in the end when you pretend to be
Competing 'cuz I just put your mind on pause
And I can beat you when you compare my rhyme wit' yours
I wake you up and as I stare in your face you seem stunned
Remember me, the one you got your idea from?
But soon you start to suffer the tune'll get rougher
When you start to stutter that's when you had enough of
Biting it?ll make you choke, you can't provoke
You can't cope, you should of broke because I ain't no joke
I got a question, as serious as cancer
Who can keep the average dancer
Hyper as a heart attack, nobody's smiling
'Cuz you're expressing the rhyme that I'm styling
This is what we all sit down to write
You can't make it so you take it home, break it and bite
Use pieces and bits of all the hip-hop hits
Get the style down packed then it's time to switch
Put my tape on pause and add some more to yours
Then you fake it, you're ready for the neighborhood chores
The E M C E E don't even try to be
When you come up to speak, don't even lie to me
You like to exaggerate, dream and imaginate
Then change the rhyme around that can aggravate me
So when you see me come up, freeze

Or you'll be one of those seven MC's
They think that I'm a new jack but only if they knew that
They who think wrong are they who can't do that
Style that I'm doing, they might ruin
Patterns of paragraphs based on you and
Your offbeat DJ, if anything he play
Sound familiar, I'll wait till E say
Play 'em, so I'ma have to dis and bro
You could get a smack for this, I ain't no joke
I hold the microphone like a grudge
B'll hold the record so the needle don't budge
I hold a conversation 'cuz when I invent
I nominated my DJ the president
When I'm see I'll, people freestyle, going steadily
So pucker up and whistle my melody
But whatever you do, don't miss one
They'll be another rough rhyme after this one
Before you know it, you're following and fiending
Waiting for the punch line to get the meaning
Like before the moral of my story I'm telling
Nobody beats the R, so stop yelling
Save it, put it in your pocket for later
'Cuz I'm moving the crowd and B a record fader
No interruptions till the mic is broke
When I'm gone, then you can joke
'Cuz everything is real on a serious tip
Keep playing and I get furious quick
And I take you for a walk through hell
Freeze your dome then watch your eyeballs swell
Guide you out of triple stage darkness
When it get dark again then I'ma spark this
Microphone 'cuz the heat is on, you see smoke
And I'm finish when the beat is gone, I'm no joke

Lyrics provided by
https://damnlyrics.com/