

## SUCCESS STORIES

# *Celebrate! Great girl moments*

### Rewriting rap



**Atlanta FIREGRLs**

One of the top issues that made them mad? The girls in Atlanta's FIREGRL club agreed: They were sick of street harassment, and they weren't happy about the degrading ways girls and women were portrayed in the media. So they combined their love of rap music with the media literacy skills they'd learned in HOTGIRLS to turn disrespectful rap music lyrics into girl-affirming fun. Partnering with the local Boys and Girls Club to bring in musicians and use recording equipment, the girls produced their own rewritten rap songs that they plan to market as a fundraiser.

And the girls continue their mission to educate other girls as well, reports Carla E. Stokes, founder of FIREGRL and HOTGIRLS—Helping Our Teen Girls in Real Life Situations ([www.helpingourteengirls.org](http://www.helpingourteengirls.org)). They've presented workshops and created media campaigns about other FIREGRL priorities such as leadership, health education, and youth organizing. Stokes hopes to start FIREGRL clubs in other cities, but urges parents to do their own media literacy with their daughter. "Just download some lyrics and let her have fun rewriting them," Stokes suggests. Or get her talking about what she likes and dislikes about her music and music videos to start exploring the ways girls are shown in the media.

**Find media literacy info at the Media area of the Daughters Community Forum ([www.daughters.com](http://www.daughters.com)).**