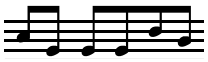
"I Hear America Singing"



Walt Whitman heard them. For him it was mechanics and carpenters and mothers, all "singing with open mouths their strong melodious songs." Well, songs and poetry have forever been a means for Americans to let the world know how they feel and what they think. The First Amendment protects our speech, we add a touch of a tune, and end up with something powerful. Whether it's singing in the shower, whistling while we work, or giving birth to Rock & Roll, we Americans have been singing since the beginning.

So, let's celebrate that heritage.

1). Pick a song written & performed by an American artist
2). Put the printed lyrics on an 8 ½ x 11 sheet of paper
3). Analyze the lyrics in writing from a poetry perspective as covered in class
4). Interpret the lyrics in a live, creative exhibition

Your <u>typed analysis</u> portion should include:

- Your interpretation & support of the song's TONE & THEME
- A discussion of at least three (3) poetic elements from *The Poet's Palette*
    - define the element
    - identify where/how it occurs in the song
    - explain why it fits the above definition
    - explain how it feeds/supports the overall tone/theme

Your <u>creative exhibition</u> portion should include:

- A 1-minute rationale: explaining the interpretation behind your exhibition
- Your exhibition, which could include something like…
    - a creative reading of the work
    - dancing to, or acting out, the lyrics (played aloud)
    - playing & singing the song live
    - reciting the lyrics from memory & combining with sounds, visuals
    - an original music video
    - creating visual art while we listen to the son
    - *or any other variation or creation*

**Do not simply plug in a tune & play it. There's nothing creative about that!

You will be evaluated on:

Written Analysis: **Thinking, support, and clarity of writing (50 points)**

Creative Exhibition: **Clarity of rationale and creativity (50 points)**