

What Will Our Verse Be? **An Arapahoe Renaissance Little Project**

What We're Aspiring To Do:

Over the next week, you will be set free to roam the poets, artists, and musicians of the Harlem Renaissance. You will also be encouraged to write your own poetry, create your own art, and/or compose your own music. This should be a hands-on experience in which you get inside the spirit and beauty of the Harlem Renaissance...and contribute a meaningful verse of your own.

The basic idea is this: Compose poetry, art, or music that responds to one of the writers, artists, or musicians of the Harlem Renaissance. Then combine your medium with the other two to create a video that conveys a message you want others to hear. A “renaissance” is a cultural rebirth, a renewal of life. Whatever you’re creating should breathe new life into the works of the Harlem Renaissance, and vice versa.

Some of the Possibilities:

There are myriad ways to go about this. For example, you could narrate your version of “I, Too” or “Theme for English B” and set it to contemporary photos and music, or you could set your poem to Harlem Renaissance art and music, or a combination of the two.

Or, you could take an already-existing Harlem Renaissance poem and set it to your own artwork (paintings, photos, etc.) and music or your choice.

Or, you could take an already-existing Harlem Renaissance poem and set it to music you’ve composed and artwork (photos, Harlem Renaissance or other paintings) of your choice.

The possibilities are endless.

The Most Important Components:

1. Your project must capture elements from the Harlem Renaissance (poetry, art, music, or all three).
2. Part of your project must be created by your own hands (you can compose your own poem, art, music, or all three).
3. You must find harmony between your creations and those of the Harlem Renaissance writers, artists, or musicians. In other words, your work should combine with theirs to create something greater than the sum of its parts. **There should be a clear, larger meaning here that you want others to understand.**

Click [HERE](#) for the contemporary, commercial example we watched in class.

Q & A

How long should my video be?

About 30 to 60 seconds.

What program should I use to make this?

If you have a Mac, I always recommend iMovie. If you have a laptop with Windows, you could use Windows Movie Maker. An easy, free online program you can use is www.wevideo.com. Let me know if you have other ideas!

Can I work with a partner?

You may work with one other person, or you may work by yourself. No groups larger than two, please.

Are we going to publish these?

Yes. We will put them on your blogs, and we will also watch them as a class.

Do I need a Works Cited?

Yes. Always. Please stop asking.

Will we have in-class time to work on these?

Yes. You will have a significant portion of class time on Thursday, and Friday this week. You will also have time on Tuesday and Thursday of the following week.

When is this due?

These are due **before class on Friday, February 7.**

I'm sure other questions will pop up as you start working on this. Please don't hesitate to ask for help/clarification/inspiration!