

What Is “American”?

Creative Product & Author’s Commentary

Part 1: Creative Product - Create a work of art inspired by / responding to at least one text you have studied in this unit. Write in the genre of your choice (creative nonfiction, fiction, poetry, drama) or use a different artistic medium (visual art, photo essay, song, film, etc.).

Due: [Friday September 8](#)

Part 2: Author’s Commentary Essay - Write a 5-6 paragraph essay describing the thinking behind your piece; at least four paragraphs explaining the text(s) that you were inspired by, and at least two paragraphs describing the **rhetorical situation** and craft choices in your piece. Be sure to include claims, evidence and explanation in your essay.

Due: [Wednesday September 13](#)

Success Criteria

In your commentary essay, be sure to explain:

- ☐ Describe the **rhetorical situation** and craft choices in your creative piece - discuss **exigence, author, purpose, audience, context** and **message**
- ☐ State the title and author of the text(s) you studied, using appropriate capitalization and formatting
- ☐ What is the author’s purpose in the text you studied?
- ☐ How does the author use ethos, pathos or logos to develop the message or theme(s) in the text?
- ☐ Identify and explain a claim that the author makes in the text.
- ☐ Provide evidence to explain how the author supports his/her/their claim in the text.

Don’t forget to also:

- ☐ Include a link or photograph of your creative product
- ☐ Move a copy of your creative product into your Writing Portfolio folder
- ☐ Move a copy of your commentary essay into your Writing Portfolio folder