

“I Hear America Singing” by Walt Whitman



I HEAR America singing, the varied
carols I hear;
Those of mechanics—each one singing
his, as it should be, blithe and strong;
The carpenter singing his, as he measures his plank
or beam,
The mason singing his, as he makes ready for work,
or leaves off work;
The boatman singing what belongs to him in his
boat—the deckhand singing on the steamboat deck;
The shoemaker singing as he sits on his bench—the
hatter singing as he stands;
The wood-cutter’s song—the ploughboy’s, on his way
in the morning, or at the noon intermission, or at
sundown;
The delicious singing of the mother—or of the young
wife at work—or of the girl sewing or washing—Each
singing what belongs to her, and to none else;
The day what belongs to the day—At night, the party
of young fellows, robust, friendly,
Singing, with open mouths, their strong melodious
songs.

1. **Choose your topic.** Remember that you must be able to tie several groups together. It might help to think about a place, hobby, occupation, activity, etc. THEN think of all of the groups and types of people within that topic. Want to really go outside of the box? Maybe you aren’t writing about people at all!
2. **Choose your title.** “I Verb Who/What Doing What”
3. **Choose your intended tone.** (Hint: Look at your tone packet for ideas!)
4. **Begin your poem.** Be sure to follow Mr. Whitman’s pattern.

5. **Pay attention to his punctuation.** Recall we discussed the purpose of the semicolon.
6. **Be purposeful.** Your words should be chosen carefully in order to communicate your tone and evoke a mood in your reader.
7. **Proofread!** Did you know you will find the most errors when you read the poem aloud?
You should be able to check all of these items off before turning in your final draft!



___ The poem has a capitalized, punctuated, and appropriate title.

___ The poem follows the model piece by Mr. Whitman. The punctuation pattern is followed. **It has a purpose!**

___ The poem is free of spelling errors.

___ The poem effectively uses diction to create a tone, and that tone is obvious to the reader.

___ The poet’s “voice” is clear in the poem. It is believable and authentic. The poet acts as an observer.

How will I be graded?

___ /25 pts. The poem contains all required elements including title and punctuation. It is free from spelling errors.

___ / 25 pts. The poem mimics Mr. Whitman’s original piece.

___ /50 pts. The poem effectively uses purposeful diction to create a consistent and clear tone throughout the piece.

100 points possible



*** **NOTES:** This is a summative grade. The final typed poem is due on **Monday, 9/12**. You may choose any font you wish when typing your piece. However, you want your poem to make effective use of space and be easily read. You are required to have an MLA heading.

**“I, Too, Sing America”
by Langston Hughes**

I, too, sing America.

I am the darker brother.
They send me to eat in the kitchen
When company comes,
But I laugh,
And eat well,
And grow strong.

Tomorrow,
I'll be at the
When company comes.
Nobody'll dare
Say to me,
"Eat in the kitchen,"
Then.

Besides,
They'll see how beautiful I am
And be ashamed--

I, too, am America.



1. **Choose your topic.** The poem is written from first person point of view and is personal in nature. What do **YOU** do?

2. **Choose your title.** “I, Too, Verb Who/What”
3. **Choose your intended tones.** Hint: Look at your tone packet for ideas! You’ll need two because of the shift.
4. **Begin your poem.** Be sure to follow the author’s pattern, paying special attention to the shift.
5. **Be purposeful.** Your words should be chosen carefully in order to communicate your tone and evoke a mood in your reader.
6. **Proofread!** Did you know you will find the most errors when you read the poem aloud?

You should be able to check all of these items off before turning in your final draft!



- ___ The poem has a capitalized, punctuated, and appropriate title.
- ___ The poem follows the model piece by Mr. Hughes. Notice you will have to include dialogue.
- ___ The poem is free of spelling errors.
- ___ The poem effectively uses diction to create a tone, and that tone is obvious to the reader.
- ___ The poet’s “voice” is clear in the poem. It is believable and authentic. The poet acts as an observer.

How will I be graded?

- ___ /25 pts. The poem contains all required elements including title and punctuation. It is free from spelling errors.
- ___ / 25 pts. The poem mimics the author’s original piece. A shift in tone is evident.

____ /50 pts. The poem effectively uses purposeful diction to create a consistent and clear tone throughout the piece.

100 points possible



heading.

*** **NOTES:** This is a summative grade. The final typed poem is due on **Monday, 9/12**. You may choose any font you wish when typing your piece. However, you want your poem to make effective use of space and be easily read. You are required to have an MLA