We Sing America Due Tuesday 8/14

In the poems we’ve read and discussed in class, Whitman celebrates what we refer to as “the common man,” and Langston responds with the perspective of a group he feels has been “left out.” For today's writing, you may write creatively showing your understanding of these poets and their views/experiences. You will choose one of the following:

1. Write a poem in the style and themes of Whitman, but in contemporary context. (Who might he celebrate if he were alive today?)
2. Write a poem in the style and themes of Hughes from the perspective of a different subgroup that may feel “left out” in contemporary culture.
3. Write a dialogue between Whitman and Hughes. If both were in the same room discussing their views, on which points would they agree? On which points would they disagree? If Whitman read Hughes’s poem, how might he respond? Reflect the ideas and experiences of both in 20+ lines of dialogue.

**Rubric**

**1. Quantity**

1 2 3 4 5

* Dialogue or poem is complete, detailed—approximately 10-20 lines

**2. Understanding**

1 2 3 4 5

* Information is accurate.
* Writing reveals understanding of poems’ vision of and experience in America.
* Dialogue is logical/makes sense.

**4. Execution / Style** 1 2 3 4 5

* Dialogue is effectively organized, well-written.
* Poems accurately reflect the style of the poet chosen.
* Writer has edited work for basics in grammar, usage, mechanics.

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