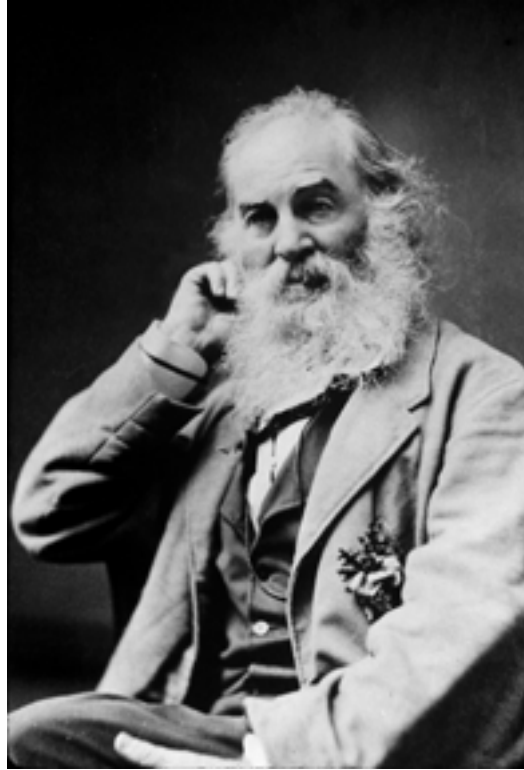


24/26 April 2017



Photograph of Walt Whitman by Matthew Brady, circa 1870

*Walt Whitman and Mathew Brady were close contemporaries. Both began their careers in New York in the years before the Civil War, and came to Washington during wartime. Both were acknowledged pioneers who used their art to express the distinctive virtues of the American nation. Brady made this portrait of Whitman in his Washington studio, which was located on Pennsylvania Avenue near Seventh Street, a few blocks from this building.*

*In January 1889, while talking to his biographer, Walt Whitman recalled, "Brady had galleries in Washington: his headquarters were in New York. We had many a talk together: the point was, how much better it would often be, rather than having a lot of contradictory records by witnesses or historians . . . if we could have three or four or half a dozen portraits -- very accurate -- of the men: that would be history -- the best history -- a history from which there could be no appeal."*

image and text from <http://www.npg.si.edu/exh/brady/gallery/39gal.html>

Greetings, AmLit Scholars—

Welcome back! I hope that your holiday was relaxing and refreshing!

Today's meeting will be dedicated to reciting and revising poetry. Always, please read the entire class plan before beginning to follow the steps. Here's how we'll roll:

**1. WEDGE: Poetry Reading Prep/Positive Outcome Visualization**— Before Lydia Ko, #1 in women’s world golf rankings for 78 consecutive weeks (!), taps the ball with her putter, she first imagines a successful result from the stroke she is about to make. Lydia Ko “sees” the ball following its perfect path and dropping into the cup.

So: imagine that today you will deliver a perfect reading of your Walt Whitman poem. What would the reading look and sound like? The only difference between what you are about to do and what Lydia Ko does is that you will anticipate your successful outcome in writing! For roughly five minutes, describe a successful reading of your Walt Whitman poem.

**2. Poetry Reading/Large Group Look at Whitman’s Lyric Poetry**—So we might come to a more insightful understanding of the poetry of Walt Whitman, we’ll look quickly at the lyric poems under the careful guidance of the members of the class assigned to each poem. Then we will compile a list of characteristics that we will refer to as “Whitmanesque.”

**3. Copy & Paste**—While you are working, I will invite you to join a Googledoc. Please paste your Walt Whitman Emulation poem into that Googledoc so I can make sure that you are prepared for today’s workshop. Remember to attach your name to your work.

**4. WEDGE**—For roughly ten minutes, consider the drafting of your Walt Whitman Emulation poem. How’d it go? What do you think of the result? (That’s right: comment on Process and Product!)

**5. Poetry Workshop**—I will divide the class into small groups. Once the teams have been determined, follow this process:

a. Forward an electronic copy of your poem to the members of your group.

b. Once the poems have been swapped, take turns following this process:

I. Have one member of the group (“The Poet”) read his or her poem aloud to the group while the other group members (“The Listeners”) read along, using the copies they have received.

II. The Listeners will then provide positive, supportive, critical feedback.

III. The Poet will take notes that will allow him or her to make alterations once the readings are done.

IV. Select a new Poet and repeat steps I-III.

c. When all the readings and debriefings have been completed, we’ll dedicate a little time to individual revision of the poems. In other words, you’ll craft a final draft of your poem.

d. Prepare a final version of your poem. Your document should conform to MLA document requirements, but the poetry itself should look like Whitman’s, right?

e. When time is up, I will ask you to submit your revised poem in three forms:

I. Send your poem to me via e-mail at [aleo@g-cacegypt.org](mailto:aleo@g-cacegypt.org)

A. Use the Subject line:

<your name> Walt Whitman Emulation

B. Submit your poem as an attached MSWord file. Use this file name:

<your name> WWE Poem

II. Upload your poem to Turnitin.com in the assignment slot entitled “WWE Poem.”

III. When I tell you to do so, run off to a printer to fetch one (1) hard copy and bring it back to me.

Tappa! Tappa! Tappa!—  
Mr Leo

**Homework:**

Follow the instructions offered on the “Find A Poem/Emulate A Poet” handout posted to our Moodle page to produce the work you will need at our next class meeting.

N.B. One key bit of advice: submit your poem for approval AS SOON AS YOU CAN!!!