

Knox College - Department of Educational Studies

Teacher: Ms. Paredes                      Grade 9-11  
Subject: English

**Lesson Focus:** Harlem Renaissance Museum of Art

**OBJECTIVES:**

- Students will be able to identify artists, artwork, and key historic points of the Harlem Renaissance
- Students will be able to analyze context as it is presented for understanding of time period
- Students will use knowledge of different forms of creative art work to develop a museum that accurately depicts the Harlem Renaissance and content understanding
- Students will use prior knowledge of historical context of the Harlem Renaissance to begin crafting their pieces for the Harlem Renaissance Museum and celebration of black art.

Duration:

2 periods of class instruction and instructor support (Much of the work will be completed independently>)

**Materials Needed:**

- Harlem Renaissance Museum Project Sheet (attached)
- Art supplies
- Computers (some students might want to develop their projects on the computer)

**Academic Language:**

1. Harlem Renaissance Unit Vocabulary
  - a. Agency: the state of being in action or exerting power
  - b. Onset: the beginning or early stages
  - c. Consciousness: an alert cognitive state in which you are aware of yourself and your situation
  - d. Unprecedented: having no precedent; novel
  - e. Turbulent: characterized by unrest or disorder or insubordination
  - f. Pinnacle: the highest level or degree attainable; the highest stage of development
  - g. Prominence: the state of being prominent; widely known or eminent

- h. Ostentatious: intended to attract notice and impress others
- i. Scrutiny: the act of examining something closely
- j. Bigot: a person who is utterly intolerant of any differing creed, belief, or opinion

### **Introductory Steps:**

1. Engage in a class discussion about the Harlem Renaissance and have the students map out their own timelines of the time period; this will also include two to three key artists and descriptions/samples of who they are and their work.
2. Facilitate dialogues that will engage students on the context of the Harlem Renaissance
3. Explain the Harlem Renaissance Project and what that will entail including the project sheet, the timeline for completion, a sample of work, and the rubric.
4. Circulate throughout the classroom, for the first day, helping students choose their medium of artwork, their inspiration for their artwork and pointing them in the right direction for conceptualization and further understanding of their piece.
5. Collect a notecard from the students that lists:
  - a. their medium of artwork
  - b. their inspiration
  - c. a one line explanation of why that particular artist is the one they chose
6. Assign homework that asks for students to bring into class the next day three notecards on their Inspirational Artist and a sample of the artist's work.
7. For the next class, split students into groups to present their Inspirational Artist to their group members.
8. Review project sheet and answer any clarifying questions.

## Unit: Harlem Renaissance Museum of Art Project Sheet



### **WELCOME to the Harlem Renaissance!**

Over the next week you will be working independently to create your own pieces of artwork that will be showcased in our Museum of the Harlem Renaissance! You will have some class time and your own time to work on your project.

### **Things to keep in mind as you pick your piece of artwork:**

- Context
- Artists of the Harlem Renaissance
- Point of View
- Time Period

### **Here are a few examples of what type of artwork could be included in the museum:**

- Poetry (There should be at least three poems in your collection.)
- Memoir and/or Short Story (Keep in mind that the minimum is 600 words.)
- Poster
- Brochure
- Song Lyrics
- Collage
- Mural
- Book Cover
- Interactive Game

If you have another idea in mind of what you would like to do, feel free to come and talk to me and we can work out the details together!

**Every piece of artwork should include:**

**Name and Date**

- 1. A 250-300 word paper explaining the reason for your choice of artwork, how it applies to the Harlem Renaissance, the inspiration for your work, and why your artwork is an important contribution to the museum.**

Score: \_\_\_\_/50

Name  
Date

## Harlem Renaissance Museum Exposition Paper

Title of Your Piece **5 points**

Medium/Genre of Choice **5 points**

Inspiration Artist **5 points**

Explanation of the title of your piece, the reason why you chose the genre you did, a short explanation of what your piece is about as it relates to the Harlem Renaissance, and a short explanation of who your inspiration artist is and why you chose that person.

Expository Paragraph: **35 points**

- 250-300 words
- proper grammar
- Format: 12 font; Times New Roman, Cambria, Calibri, or Georgia; double-spaced

Score: \_\_\_\_/50

May 12, 2015

## **Harlem Renaissance Museum Exposition Paper**

Africans in the Sky  
Poetry  
Nina Simone

The name of my poetry for the Harlem Renaissance Museum is called "Africans in the Sky." The poem is about black people trying to get away from the daily struggles of living in a racist, white supremacist world. I chose to do a poem because I felt that I could better encapsulate the feelings that I wanted to present through words versus drawing it out.

The inspiration for my piece was Nina Simone. I listened to her song "Black Bird" where she is discussing the struggles of black people wanting to escape from a place we call America but instead feel stuck in a very negative environment. I think that this piece is important to include in the museum because much like the Harlem Renaissance that tried very hard to celebrate black people by emphasizing on black art work, I feel that this poem also tries hard to celebrate black people by validating their experiences.



**Student Comments:**

**Teacher Comments:**

**Unit: Harlem Renaissance Museum of Art  
Project Checklist**

**Before you turn in your Portfolio for the Harlem Renaissance Museum, make sure that you have the following things:**

\_\_\_\_\_ I have my Harlem Renaissance Museum Art piece.

\_\_\_\_\_ I have my 250-300 word Exposition Paper with the necessary components. (See project worksheet and examples.)

\_\_\_\_\_ I have my Art Reflection written for my presentation of my piece on Friday. (This includes the reasons why I chose my genre, the reason why I chose my Inspiration Artist, and what I have learned while engaging in this unit.)