

Creative writing, due December 4, 2017

In class we listened to William Grant Still's Symphony No. 1 in A-flat Major "Afro-American" (1930) and read Langston Hughes's poem "I, too." Both of these works expressed the feeling of being an outsider in America: Still was combining the style of jazz with the traditional symphony to show that African-American culture was just as valid and beautiful as standard concert music. Hughes's poem expressed frustration, hope, and strength in the face of feeling cast aside. Both men used their art to show their perspective in a beautiful way.

For homework, you will express your feelings in two different art forms:

1. Write a poem that expresses how you feel being in America. Your poem can be of any length, and it doesn't have to rhyme.
2. Imagine you have the chance to create or compose a new piece of music that captures how you feel about being in America. Describe the piece: what will it sound like, what instruments will be used, what kind of feelings will it evoke?