**Ekphrastic poetry: Creating art from art**

An *ekphrastic* poem is one that has a painting or other work of art as its subject.

Ekphrasis is poetry inspired by art. Today, you will locate a painting, photograph, drawing, or a political cartoon that is representative of the “American Dream” and write an ekphrastic poem that provides some type commentary on it.

Study the work, and create a poem that is at least *20 lines long and contains a minimum of 5 different poetic devices* (ie. alliteration, assonance, consonance, metaphor, simile, rhyme, imagery, onomatopoeia, symbolism, personification, or repetition). The poem does not have to rhyme. \*Please look back at your notes concerning these poetic devices!\*

You can use any of the following approaches to writing your poem:

• Write about the scene or subject being depicted in the artwork.

• Write in the voice of a person or object shown in the work of art.

• Write about your experience of looking at the art.

• Relate the work of art to something else it reminds you of.

• Imagine what was happening while the artist was creating the piece.

• Write in the voice of the artist.

• Write a dialogue among characters in a work of art.

• Speak directly to the artist or the subject(s) of the piece.

• Write in the voice of an object or person portrayed in the artwork.

• Imagine a story behind what you see depicted in the piece.

• Speculate about why the artist created this work.

*\*Proofread your work and save it to Google Docs. You will need to share the work of art, ekphrastic poem, and analysis of your poetic devices with me via Google Docs. PLEASE MAKE SURE ALL OF THESE ARE ON THE SAME DOCUMENT!* My email: server.joye@mail.fcboe.org

**You may look other places, but here are a few links you may want to use.**

**Places to look for fine art paintings:**

[www.high.org](http://www.high.org/) (The High Museum of Art, Atlanta):

Click on “Art” in the top banner and select “Permanent Collection.” Pick a time period or genre that interests you to pull up works from that collection.

[www.metmuseum.org](http://www.metmuseum.org/) (The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York):

Click on “Collections” on the top banner and then select “Browse Highlights.” Click the “What” tab and select “paintings.” This gives you the most selection, but you can also narrow down by Who (artist), When (time period), and Where (location art originated).

[www.nga.gov](http://www.nga.gov/) (The National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.):

Click on “The Collections” and select “Paintings.” Pick a time period/region that you think might interest you and scroll to the bottom of the page. Pick a “selected online tour” to see several paintings at a time.

[www.mfa.org](http://www.mfa.org/) (Museum of Fine Arts, Boston):

Click on “Collections” and select “Prints and Drawings” from the pull-down menu. At the bottom of the screen, pick an artist or collection.

Name: Date: Period:

Copy your work of art here. It can either be the actual image or a link to the website (but the image is preferable):

Ekphrastic Poem: Write your ekphrastic poem below.

Analysis of poetic devices employed: