

# Creative Assignment #1

Write a letter to Walt Whitman, in which you update him about today's United States. In setting down your vision of the contemporary, be sure to reference how he describes the America of his time in the 1855 edition of *Leaves of Grass*.

Because America is a huge topic and because your letter only needs to reach *three double-spaced pages*, it will work better to go into detail about some aspect, or some few aspects, of the American experience, rather than try to cover everything. Avoid overgeneralizations. Concrete detail is crucial and catalogues are nice, but summary is unimportant.

Following Ginsberg, you may choose to parody Whitman, to praise him, or to offer him backhanded praise. You are not obliged, though, to frame your response as Ginsberg does.

