

3) WRITING THE *NEW* “NEW COLOSSUS”

DURATION: 45 MINUTES

Students create their own New “New Colossus,” expressing their vision and ideals about America. Students have the opportunity to enter their poems in AJHS’ national poetry contest.

GUIDING QUESTIONS

If you could write a poem for the Statue of Liberty today, what would it say?

What is the role of art in helping people express, understand, and debate American identity?

OUTCOMES

Students will:

- Make connections between Emma’s life and theirs today
- Reflect on the current and historical issues that matter to them
- Write a poem that expresses what it means for them to be American
- Explore what the Statue of Liberty means as a symbol of America
- Utilize poetic devices

MATERIALS

[The New Colossus Primary Source Sheet](#)

[“A New Colossus” - 92nd Street Y](#)

STEPS

1) Explain the task to students:

- You are being asked to write a new “New Colossus.” Your poem will be added to the pedestal of the Statue of Liberty along side Lazarus’ poem.
- Your poem should, together with the Statue of Liberty, send a message to the world about America.
- *The poetry contest has no requirements about the structure of the students poems, but if you would like to set parameters for your students we suggest:* Your poem should be between 14 - 20 lines long and should include the use of at least 2 poetic devices.

2) Share responses to the assignment for inspiration.

- Watch [the film](#) which provides an overview of the project and ends with student poems.
- Explore poems from the [92nd Street Y’s “A New Colossus”](#)
- Encourage students to carefully annotate the poems by underlining words and phrases that they feel are evocative or effective, and by crossing out words or phrases that are not. This can help give them ideas for their own poems.

4) Have students share their poems with each other and give each other feedback as they discuss:

- What words, phrases or images from the poem stood out? Why?
- How does the poem make you feel?
- What is the message of this poem?
- How does the new *New Colossus* influence the way you view the Statue of Liberty?

5) Enter your students’ poem into [THE EMMA LAZARUS PROJECT POETRY CONTEST](#)