**Poetry Composition Assignment**

11-12 American Literature

Description: For this assignment you will compose an original poem that mimics one the poems we read in the Early American Poetry unit of our course.

Length: 8-15 lines

Development:

1. Choose poem a that interests you or one that you found particularly meaningful.
2. Identify mode of address
   1. Dramatic monologue—one speaker relating thoughts to implied audience (e.g. Bradstreet’s “Verses Upon the Burning of My House”)
   2. Exhortation—the poet calling reader to action in some way (e.g. “A Psalm of Life”)
   3. Meditation/reflection (e.g. Bryant’s “Thanatopsis”)
   4. Narrative – poem that tells a story (e.g. Whittier’s “Snow-Bound”)
3. Identify rhyme scheme (if present—some poems might be blank verse).
4. Identify metrical pattern.
5. Consider relationship between form, themes, and emotions.
   1. How does the meter of the poem interact with or complement its themes?
   2. What attitudes or emotions are present in the poem and how are those expressed in or enhanced by its forms?
6. Write a poem that imitates as closely a possible the form of the poem you chose. The theme, topic, or experience you write about should be congruent with the form of the poem.

Due dates:

* 1. **Rough Draft: 10/7/20**
  2. **Final Draft: TBD**