

Essay Assignment

In this short essay, you will compare William Carlos Williams’s “The Great Figure” to Charles Demuth’s *The Figure 5 in Gold*. Your essay should explain how Williams’s poem embodies the general characteristics of Imagist poetry. Then describe how Demuth uses similar Precisionist strategies in his painting of the poem. Conclude your essay by reflecting on how successful you think Demuth was in capturing the poem in the form of a painting. What did he do particularly well, what did he leave out, what did he add? Be sure to use relevant terms of poetry and art in your essay.

Imagist Characteristics	Precisionist Characteristics
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Describes a single image or scene• Breaks the image into component parts• Views the image from multiple perspectives• Uses line breaks and stanzas to emphasize certain aspects of the image.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reduces compositions to simple shapes and underlying geometrical structures• Complex geometric patterns are created by lines projected by light, shadow, the imaginary extension of objects, or representations of multiple perspectives (spatial or temporal).• Uses clear outlines, minimal detail, and smooth handling of surfaces