

Generalizing About the Power of the Creative Arts

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To **generalize** you draw a broad general conclusion based on several pieces of specific evidence.

You use generalizing when you

- learn that over half the students in your school have experienced divorce. You could generalize that divorce has become common nationwide.
- realize that four girls in your grade have the name Sophia. When your mother was your age, she had three girls in her class named Mary. From this observation, you could generalize that names go in and out of fashion.
- notice that several popular singing groups are made up of all males or all females. You could generalize that music is divided along gender lines.

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In what other situations might you use generalizing?

Generalizing can be misused by sharing false generalizations such as those below. False generalizations either make blanket statements or are based on inadequate information.

- You know a girl who is afraid of snakes. You might falsely generalize that all girls are afraid of snakes.
- Your brothers are very interested in computers. You might falsely generalize that all boys are interested in new technologies.

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Cluster Question: What contributions were made to American art and culture?

Directions: Creativity can be a very powerful tool. An original creation often allows one to express a message or idea in new and different ways. Think about a time when you have been affected by the way an artist has expressed an idea. Has a photograph made you feel sad? Can a song change your mood? Have you been fascinated by a certain character on stage? What words or ideas remain with you after you've read a story or poem?

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On the following slides is a list of four creative arts: art, music/dance, drama, and literature/poetry. Consider the situation of African Americans before the era of the Harlem Renaissance. Then make some generalizations about how blacks used the arts to express themselves in new ways and to forge a sense of pride. An example has been done for you.

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Art

- *tried new styles that were different from those used by white society*
- *portrayed themselves and their race in a favorable light*
- *left a legacy for future blacks to be proud of*

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Music/Dance

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Music/Dance

- developed styles that provided them with pride
- developed styles that provided them with comfort
- developed styles that provided them with an escape from the daily grind

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Drama

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Drama

- allowed black actresses and actors to act out universal life situations

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Literature/Poetry

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Literature/Poetry

- allowed blacks to express feelings and grievances in new ways

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Now make a general statement about the contributions the Harlem Renaissance may have had on American art and culture.

Note: As you progress through Cluster Three, keep an eye out for specifics from which you can generalize about contributions the Harlem Renaissance made to American art and culture.

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Sample general statement

The Harlem Renaissance may have enabled African Americans to develop a new sense of self, to move closer to equality, and to recognize the ingenuity and talent of their own race.