

Proposal

The Poetic Activism of Amanda Gorman

1. Title

"Revolution in Verse: The Rhetoric and Resistance in Amanda Gorman's Poetry"

2. Introduction

Amanda Gorman's poetry merges activism with literary tradition, addressing themes of democracy, racial justice, and resilience. Her work has rekindled public interest in spoken word poetry, positioning literature as an influential tool for social change. This research examines how Gorman uses poetic techniques to shape discourse and inspire collective action. Would you like me to refine this further, perhaps integrating more interdisciplinary perspectives or focusing on specific poems?

3. Objectives

- To analyse Gorman's major works, including *The Hill We Climb* and *Call Us What We Carry*, within contemporary socio-political contexts.
- To explore her engagement with historical influences such as Maya Angelou and the Black poetic tradition.
- To examine the performative aspects of her spoken word poetry and its impact on audiences.
- To assess the reception and influence of her poetry on public discourse and activism.

4. Literature Review

- **Historical Influences:** A study of poets who shaped Gorman's style, including Gwendolyn Brooks and Elizabeth Alexander.
- **The Role of Poetry in Activism:** Examining connections between literature and social movements.
- **Performance and Poetics:** Understanding how oral traditions enhance literary impact.

5. Theoretical Framework

- **Feminist Literary Criticism:** Investigating Gorman's representation of gender and empowerment.
- **Postcolonial Theory:** Examining themes of identity, resistance, and historical narrative.
- **Narrative and Rhetorical Analysis:** Assessing the structural and linguistic techniques in her poetry.

6. Methodology

- **Close Reading:** Detailed textual analysis of her poems.
- **Comparative Study:** Exploring parallels between Gorman and other activist poets.
- **Interdisciplinary Approach:** Integrating insights from literary studies, cultural criticism, and political discourse analysis.
- **Public Reception Analysis:** Examining audience responses, media coverage, and the role of digital platforms in spreading her work.

7. Expected Contribution

This research aims to highlight the evolving role of poetry in shaping public discourse, demonstrating how Gorman's work contributes to contemporary discussions on democracy, activism, and representation. It also seeks to establish poetry as an essential form of socio-political engagement in the 21st century.

8. Conclusion

Amanda Gorman's poetry exemplifies the power of words in fostering change, bridging historical influences with contemporary expression. By examining her work through literary, performative, and socio-political lenses, this study underscores her significance as a leading voice in modern literature and activism.