

<https://drinkwateronline.files.wordpress.com/2016/04/slang-in-america-whitman.pdf>

Read the above text, Walt Whitman's "Slang in America," and then answer the below questions:

These questions pertain to page 1:

- What connotation is associated with "slang" as a term? Does this connotation match up with Whitman's views on slang? Why or why not?
- How are Whitman's views on slang related or connected to the ideas/interests expressed in the excerpts you read of "Song of Myself"? Use examples from both texts to explain your reasoning.
- What counter-argument about slang is Whitman implicitly responding to in the paragraph starting with "To make it plainer"? What conventional wisdom regarding slang (and its status within/effects upon a given language) does he address?

These questions pertain to page 2:

- What type of people does Whitman credit with the advancement of the "great science" of inventing slang terminology? What connotation does Whitman appear to believe his audience would associate with these "inventors" of new slang?
- Beyond serving as examples of slang, what purpose might Whitman be fulfilling with his list of slang shorthand for residents of various states? How does this choice of example affect the tone or focus of his essay?
- Why does Whitman choose to put "American humorists" in quotes in the penultimate paragraph?
- Whitman shifts analogies in his closing paragraph, moving from one representation of language to the other. Why did he choose to end with the new analogy as opposed to the one proposed at the beginning of that final paragraph?