*Consider the three performances included below.*

*After watching the clips and investigating the storylines and context of these performances (through accompanying materials and research of your own), write an essay****(minimum of 250 words)*** *that discusses and answers the following questions:*

1. *The commonalities among these three performances.*
2. *Why each was relevant to audiences and social issues during the time of their premiere.*
3. *Do you see a different value in the musical arts after learning more about the music of the 20th century and operettas/ballets/musicals?*

***Performance #1***

*George Gershwin's Operetta, Porgy, and Bess, premiered in 1935. In order to view the video, you will need to click Play twice - Click Play below, then click the "Watch on YouTube" link to view the video through YouTube.  You can also read the lyrics*[*https://genius.com/George-gershwin-summertime-lyrics*](https://genius.com/George-gershwin-summertime-lyrics)

***Performance #2***

*Leonard Berstein's, West Side Story, premiered on Broadway in 1957. Watch the opening number below.*[*https://youtu.be/bxoC5Oyf\_ss*](https://youtu.be/bxoC5Oyf_ss)

***Performance #3***

*Lin-Manuel Miranda's Hamilton premiered on Broadway in 2015. Watch the video of the opening number performed at the Grammys below. You can also read the lyrics*[*https://youtu.be/MT216BstSbc*](https://youtu.be/MT216BstSbc)