

The American Scholar Themes

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Themes are the central message or ideas in a literary text. Analysing [Emerson's](#) essay "The American Scholar," we find the following themes.

Social Unity: Emerson emphasizes social unity first. He outlines men's roles in creating a prosperous and harmonious society and shows how various societal divisions (e.g., class, education, and occupation) isolated and undervalued people. The scholar's role is to break these distinctions, sharing universal truths. Scholars can help people bridge societal divides and promote a sense of belonging among all individuals. This effort will create a unified and inclusive society that will applaud everyone's contributions.

Nature and Connection: Nature is central to the scholar's development. It serves as the first and most profound teacher. Emerson believes nature allows scholars to recognize the connections between all living things. Nature mirrors human society and the human spirit with its interconnected roots and cycles. For Emerson, exploring America's vast landscapes gives scholars unique opportunities to create original ideas and art. Through a deep connection with nature, scholars can uncover truths that revive across time and culture.

Creation and National Identity: Emerson motivates to create a distinctly American intellectual and artistic identity. This identity will be separate from European influences. He critiques the over-reliance on traditional European ideas. He encourages American scholars to embrace originality, self-reliance, and action. Scholars can heighten national pride and define America's unique voice by focusing on the realities of everyday life. Emerson argues that cultural independence is essential for America's growth as a nation. According to him, the scholar's creative contributions will inspire unity, equality, and respect on a global stage.