

Why is this painting (Delacroix's *Liberty Leading the People*) associated with Romanticism? Discuss both painting style and subject matter.

*Liberty Leading the People* is associated with Romanticism due to its intense illustration of emotions and representation of a historical genre scene. The main figure Liberty who is "as a flesh-and-blood woman, with red cheeks, powerful arms, and large breasts," (223) presents to be powerful but yet controlled and focused with the chaotic environment around her, which represents aspects of Romanticism. This extreme source of emotions demonstrated in the painting is not an ordinary classical piece. Delacroix's "depicts a contemporary event" (223) that has the viewer truly feel the compassion and creates sympathy of the revolutionaries and victims who are fighting for what they believe in. Such a passionate event and much creation of emotion formed in Delacroix's *Liberty Leading the People*, is a unique painting that is related to Romanticism.