

i am.

Deija West

my culture is art
my culture stems from battered roots
but is not broken
instead a strong foundation
like the base of a tree
is built
i am art

my culture is persistent
like a soaring oak tree
we tower over others
we know that we can overcome
and that our minds are terrible things to waste
i am persistent

my culture is unbreakable
strong as branches
we sing and we dance
but most importantly
we remember
that we must never forget
i am unbreakable

my people are beautiful
inside and out

we decorate the earth with
our gorgeous deep colors
our black skin is unlike any other
therefore we should be proud of it
not denounce it
I know that i am beautiful
like no other

Nominating faculty: Professor Juanita DeLeon, African American Studies 2202,
Department of African American Studies, School of Arts & Sciences, New York
City College of Technology, CUNY.

Cite as: West, D. (2015). I am. *City Tech Writer*, 10, 22. Online at
<https://openlab.citytech.cuny.edu/city-tech-writer-sampler/>