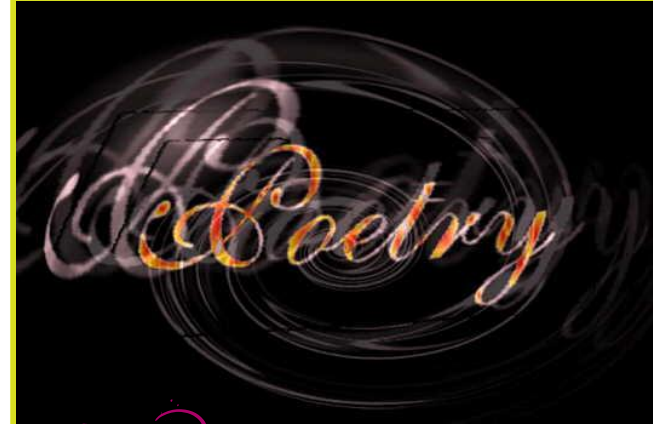


Introduction to Poetry: Writing Assignment





What is Poetry?

- “The spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings.” —William Wordsworth
- “Poetry is what makes me laugh or cry or yawn, what makes my toenails twinkle, what makes me want to do this or that or nothing.” —Dylan Thomas
- “You can’t write poetry on a computer.” —Quentin Tarantino
- “Poetry is life distilled.” —Gwendolyn Brooks
- “A poet is someone who stands outside in the rain hoping to be struck by lightning.” —James Dickey
- *What does poetry mean to you? Make your own meaning...*



Getting Started

- **Your task** is to write a poem about an intense moment or feeling you have had.
- How do you get started?
 - **Brainstorm:** Jot down any ideas, emotions, images or stories that come to mind with that moment/feeling.
 - **Find a central image to use:** a story to tell, a metaphor to expand on, a symbol to focus on.
 - **Decide on a structure:** free verse, a sonnet, a ballad, a set rhythm/rhyme scheme.
 - **Write:** Focus on the central image and express what you want to say. Write as much as possible until you can't write any more.
 - **Pause & Ponder:** Put your draft aside for at least 24 hours.



Revision

- This is where you will go back and focus on creating an experience for the reader by:
 - Including imagery (the five senses) and showing ideas (show, not tell).
 - Using action verbs that are lively and specific.
 - Focusing on how each word sounds, individually and together.
 - Making interesting comparisons (simile, metaphor...).
 - Making specific, strong word choices.
 - Organizing your ideas in powerful and effective ways.
 - Using punctuation for maximum impact.
- For more details about each of these, keep on reading!!

Figurative Language

- Include imagery (the five senses) and showing ideas (show, not tell).
 - Example: What's better?
 - The girls were excited.
 - Giggles and screams filled the arena. The soft curls were now damp with perspiration and the anticipation of the event. They held tight to each other in a mock effort to contain themselves. Arms flailed upward, and voices echoed in varying tones. The moment was here.
- Make interesting comparisons:
 - Similes and metaphors
 - Personification
 - Symbolism

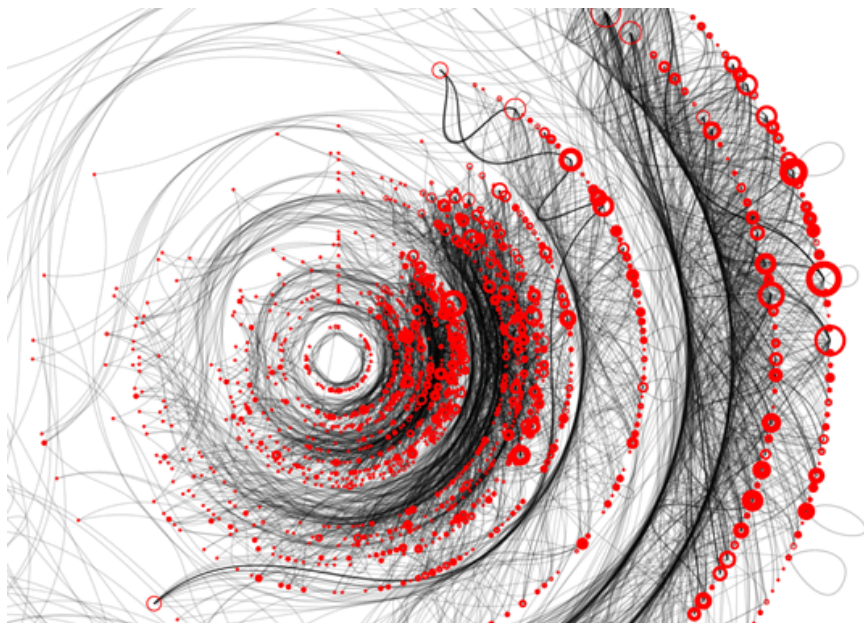


Sound Devices

- Focus on how each word sounds, individually and together.
- Read your poem out loud. How does it sound?
- Use action verbs that are lively and specific.
- Making specific, strong word choices.
- Include repetition, alliteration, and rhyme.



Organization



- Organize your ideas in powerful and effective ways.
- Recognize the economy of language.
- Reduce wordiness.
- Use punctuation on purpose.
- Example: What's better? How are they different?
 - "I have eaten the plums that were in the icebox."
 - I have eaten the plums that were in the icebox
 - from "This is Not to Say" by William Carlos Williams



Recording Your Poem

- Poetry is not about just the written word; it's also about an auditory experience. Ever heard of Tupac? Alicia Keys? Led Zeppelin? They were all poets who set their words to music.
- Record your poem, focusing on the following:
 - Tone of voice: Be dramatic and expressive.
 - Enunciation: Be sure the listening can understand what you are saying.
 - Dynamics: Avoid speaking in monotone.
 - Rate: Don't speed through your poem like a chipmunk or bore your listener with a too-slow speech.
- Need help completing the recording? Check out the next page...

How to Make a Recording



- Use the Voice Board.
 - You'll see a blue button in our class. This allows you to record your program right there in our class!
- Use the recording program on your computer.
 - If you are familiar with the recording programs on your computer, then this is the simplest and best option!
- Download a free program.
 - Try Wavosaur (www.wavosaur.com).
- No mic? No problem!
 - Use your Smart Phone.
 - For example, I recently discovered that my i-Phone has Voice Memos. After I create a recording, I can email it to myself. Then I can save the recording!

Submitting Your Final Draft

- Review your poem and your recording to ensure that you are satisfied with the end product.
- Submit your final draft of both your poem and your recording to the IP-Writing & Presenting Poetry assignment link.
- And remember...if you need help, be sure to ask!

