

# Poetry in Motion 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

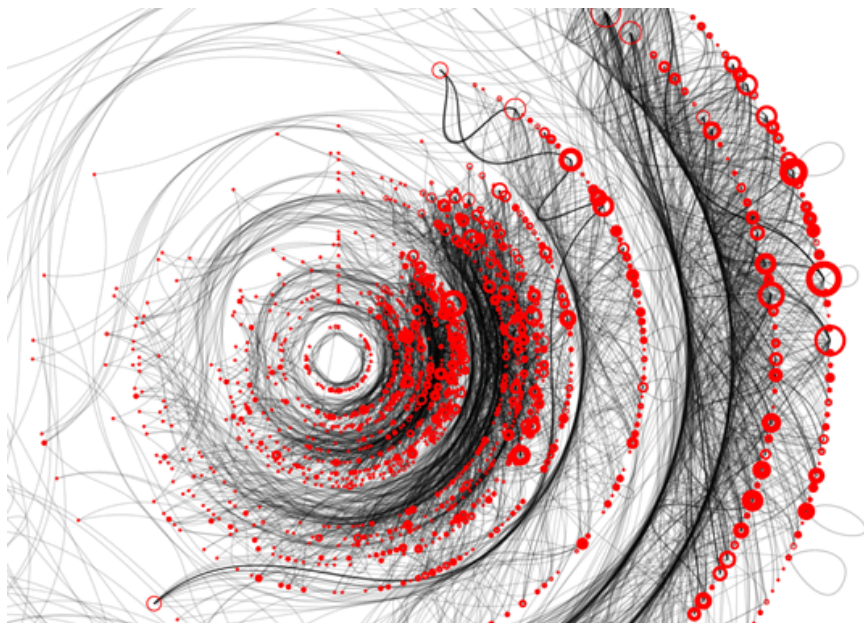


# Sound Devices

- 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.



# 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

# Sharing Your Poem

- Once you are satisfied with your final draft, it's time to share your poem with your classmates by posting your poem to the Poetic Justice Peer Evaluation Discussion.
- Don't forget to post your own positive and respectful feedback to your peers' poems.







# 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.
- Post to the Poetry in Motion Discussion Board forum.
- Need help completing the recording? Check out the next page...

# How to Make a Recording



- 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
  - Even though the course recommends Audacity, please do not use this program.
  - Wavosaur ([www.wavosaur.com](http://www.wavosaur.com)) is a much easier alternative.
- 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

- After reviewing the feedback from your peers in the discussion board, make the necessary changes to your poem and your recording...make it the best you can!!
- Submit your final draft of both your poem and your recording to the Poetry in Motion assignment link.

