



Writing Poetry

The Why and the How

WHY WRITE POETRY?

- 1-Writing poetry helps us understand and appreciate poetry.
- 2-Since poetry is a form of art, writing poetry allows us to express and develop our creative nature.
- 3-Through poetry we can express and communicate feelings and emotions and our personal interpretations of life and the world.
- 4-Writing poetry helps us discover things about ourselves and about the world around us. It heightens our perception and sensitivity.
- 5-Crafting poetry -- like painting or writing music -- can be very satisfying and a whole lot of fun!

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The Writing Process

- 1- Brainstorm
- 2- Plan
- 3- Compose a Rough Draft
- 4- Revise, Revise, Revise
- 5- Obtain Feedback
- 6- Make Final Revisions and Proofread/Edit
- 7- Write a Final Copy and Share Your Work



THE PROCESS OF WRITING POETRY

Step 1 - Brainstorm

Select a subject or idea (make sure your subject is significant and interesting and not too broad) and brainstorm thoughts on your topic. The “stream of consciousness” method usually works well with poetry. Web or cluster diagrams work as well. Go deep and access, not just deep thoughts, but deep feelings and emotions as well. Be fearless!

Step 2 - Plan

Plan your poem. What is your purpose? Who is your audience? What tone/voice will you use? What form (if any) will you follow? Study your brainstorming: what lines will you use in the beginning, middle, and end of your poem? What will the poem look like (the structure)?



Step 2 - Plan (continued)

Gather specific and sensory details for your poem, and think of possible poetic techniques you could use (figurative language, sound effects, etc.).

Consider making a list or chart of possible descriptive words. Keep in mind the mood you want to create.

Step 3 - Rough Draft

Compose the rough draft. Make sure your ideas flow logically and follow some kind of structure (lines, line breaks, and stanzas). Include a significant ending and, if applicable, a meaningful title. Think of this step as an artist's sketch. Don't forget to skip lines so you have enough space for revisions.

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Step 4 - Revise


Begin crafting your poem, word for word and line by line. Take out what's not needed, add details and figurative language, and replace words with better-sounding ones or with more powerful or specific ones. This step is what writing poetry is all about. Think of yourself as an artist, adding form, details, and color to your masterpiece.



Step 4 - Revise (continued)

Read the poem aloud to yourself. Can you improve its rhythm and sound? Examine the placement of the words on the paper. Does the structure of the poem match its purpose and audience, tone and voice, and theme and message? Finally, think about your purpose for writing the poem. Are you satisfied with the way you have communicated your message and shown your feelings and emotions about your subject?

Step 5 - Feedback



Let your poem and your mind rest for a few days, then come back to the poem and study it again. Could it use some improvement? You could share your poem with a friend and ask for specific feedback. That's usually very helpful. However, be careful not to let your friend alter your artistic vision. Remember that your poem is *your* work of art.

Step 6 - Revise/Proofread/Edit

Make final revisions. Proofread and edit your final draft for spelling mistakes. Check your grammar and your capitalization / punctuation. Write a beautiful final copy.

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Step 7 - Share Your Work

Share your poem with the world.
Be proud of your accomplishment!



Bibliography

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