

Poetry Assignment

Choose a structured poem such as a sonnet or villanelle with strong meter where a main character is talking in first person. If you are not sure what these types are, or you have little access to poetry, choose a 14-line poem by Shakespeare and you will be fine. Make a copy of the poem that you can write on.

Read the poem several times orally to understand how it should be read for a natural flow. Make sure you know what all the lines mean. Write the primary and secondary objectives of the character down on the poem, and identify the primary and secondary obstacles. These will aide you in reading the poem with meaning.

Memorize your poem so that you can recite it without creating a stilted delivery. Look for groups of lines that should be said together (phrasing), and places where you should stop so the audience knows the upcoming line is important (dramatic pause). When you are certain you have developed the best delivery you can, listen to the version of “My Mistress’ Eyes Are Nothing Like The Sun”. Click on lines of the poem to find errors in the delivery. Then listen the second version to hear the improvements.

Revisit your poem reading and try to correct some of the errors you have been making. Practice it again until the new version is as good as you can make it. Then record it and submit it to your teacher. Following the submission, fill out the self-analysis sheet and give it to your teacher.

Poetry Self-Evaluation

Name:

The purpose of this evaluation is to reflect on your practices as a drama student. It is your job to be as honest as possible about your work. When your comments are complete, your teacher will evaluate the honesty and depth of your work. Remember that good self-criticism shows the ability to accurately identify both strengths and weaknesses. State the reasons for all of your responses.

1. Approximately how many times did you practice your poem?
2. Did you memorize your poem completely enough?
3. How were you able to improve on your reading after listening to the poem?
4. What, if anything, are you still displeased with?
5. Do you believe you put a strong effort into this project?
6. What were the strengths of your reading?
7. What was the most difficult part of this project?

Responses: