

POETRY PORTFOLIO FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Can my response be more than 100 words? Absolutely! In fact, you may have a hard time writing a good response in just 100 words. A top quality well written response will probably be 200-300 words.

Do I have to do all the prompts listed on the rubric? No, the rubric is just a guide for you to form your responses. You may want to start with a paraphrase, then tie in the title's significance and add your personal opinion of the poem. Make sure you choose a poem that you can respond to. For example, there is a popular poem called "Television". Please don't tell me that the title's significance is that the poem is about television! You'll need to address some of the other prompts for that one! I will mark the rubric with the items that I find in your response and add comments on your rough draft.

I'm not an artist! Do I have to draw my illustrations? Each poem has to include a small graphic – you may use clip art, hand draw or cut out pictures to emphasize the symbolism in the poem.

What do you mean by "create an original piece of artwork"? A piece of artwork is anything that you might consider framing. Please do not use this response to draw a sketch. There are numerous mediums you can use for your artwork including 2 dimensional as well as 3 dimensional art forms.

Can I choose a different poem to read to the class? You may use one of the 10 poems that you've chosen to present to the class or you may choose an 11th poem.

What do you mean by bring an "artifact"? An artifact is a visual that enhances your presentation. Please don't simply bring in a basketball if your poem is about basketball. You'll need to think hard about this one. How can you work in the basketball in ways that enhance the reading of your poem? Can you create rhythm by bouncing the ball and reciting the poem at the same time?

What do I have to turn in each week? Do I have to turn in my "creative" responses? You will turn in one written response each week (5 total – one for each week). Although it is considered a rough draft – make sure you have a plan, write and revise! You must keep your rough drafts and include them in your final poetry portfolio. I won't be looking at your creative responses until you turn in your portfolio. You should be working on one each week at home – your final portfolio is due the last week of our unit.

Can I look on the internet for poems? Yes, you can. However, I will caution you to stay away from the silly poem sites. Using one or two of these kinds of poems might work for your creative responses but you will have a difficult time writing a response that meets sixth grade standards. So, choose wisely! Many of the classics are in the public domain so you have access to lots and lots of great poetry!

What happens if I don't turn it in? This poetry portfolio is critical to meeting 6th grade writing and language arts standards. If you do not turn it in, you will receive an incomplete for your writing grade on your report card. Other subject areas including literature and language arts may also be affected. You're going to want to stay on top of this!

What do you mean by videotape oral presentation? You will be presenting a poem to the class. One option is to videotape yourself reading and discussing your poem on videotape and showing it at your oral presentation. We will see several examples in class. It is not a requirement, however we hope you try it!