

SPOKEN WORD POETRY PERFORMANCE TIPS

As you practice and rehearse your spoken word poem performance, keep these tips in mind.

- Memorize your poem. It's ok if you need to read it, but it's also ok to go "freestyle." That's part of the experience.
- Watch other poets perform their work. If you want to shoot better free throws, you watch the best and learn their techniques. Do the same for spoken word poetry.
- Practice, practice, practice!
- Make eye contact. Don't stare at the floor. Looking into somebody's eyes helps you capture their attention and gives you feedback on your performance.
- Project your voice. Speak loudly and clearly so your voice can be heard from a distance.
- Play around with changing the volume of your voice.
- Be aware of your tone. Make sure you are conveying the meaning and feeling in your words.
- Slow down! If it sounds slow to you, it is probably just right for your audience.
- Facial expressions help animate your poem. You are not a statue. Smile if you are happy. Look angry if something angers you. Let your emotions shine through your performance.
- Use hand gestures and body movements to emphasize different parts of your poem.
- Don't be afraid to move around. Use your hands to get your point across.
- Don't let mistakes trip you up. Use an impromptu freestyle if you need time to get back on track.
- Don't forget to have fun!