Spoken Word Poetry Writing Tips

As you write your spoken word poem, keep these tips in mind.

* Write about what inspires you. What are you passionate about?
* Choose your idea (can be broad like love or life, or something specific) and stick with it.
* Stay on topic.
* Focus on sensory details.
* Start with a “gateway” line that lets your audience know what you are going to be talking about.
* Show your attitude! Feelings and emotions give poetry richness.
* Include relatable, figurative language. Keep it simple but powerful.
* Create an engaging opening line that keeps the audience’s attention.
* Be intentional with your words. Tell a story.
* Paint a picture with words. Use rich imagery.
* Use repetition to create emphasis and memorable moments.
* Add rhyme to enrich your diction and performance. Don’t focus too much on rhyme scheme (for example, ABAB). Internal rhyme is golden in spoken word!
* Recite the words aloud as you write them. Listen to the sounds. Find the musicality in the words.
* End the poem when it feels right.
* Leave your audience with a memorable line or something to think about.

Ideas for Poem Topics

* 10 Things I Know to Be True
* What matters to you? What is important to you? What would you change if you could?
* Specific person in your life or “name-drop” somebody famous
* One word focus (Peace, Love, Wisdom, Justice, Freedom, Renewal, Evolving, Unity, Potential, Truth, Perspective, Life & Death, Racism, Sexism, Ageism, Classism, Feminism, etc.)
* A poem focused on a borrowed line from another poem or a book
* Your choice, but keep it appropriate :)