

## 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 :)