

Poetry Writing Rubric

Criteria	Excellent (4 pts)	Proficient (3 pts)	Basic (2 pts)	Below Basic (1 pt)
Theme & Meaning: How well does the poem express a clear theme or message?	The poem has a deep and powerful theme that is explored in a meaningful way.	The poem has a clear theme, but it could be explored in more depth.	The poem has a theme, but it may be vague or underdeveloped.	The poem's theme is unclear or not developed.
Creativity & Originality: Introduces and develops characters with depth, showing their thoughts, feelings, and actions.	The poem is highly creative and unique, offering fresh perspectives and ideas.	The poem has creative elements and shows some originality.	The poem is somewhat creative but may rely on common or predictable ideas.	The poem lacks originality and relies on clichés.
Word Choice & Imagery: How well does the poem use descriptive language and strong word choices?	Uses vivid, powerful words and sensory details to create strong images and emotions.	Uses good word choices and some effective imagery.	Uses basic or simple word choices with occasional imagery.	Uses repetitive or simple words with little to no imagery.
Structure & Form: Does the poem follow a specific poetic form or structure effectively?	The poem follows a chosen form (free verse, rhyme, haiku, etc.) with purpose and consistency.	The poem mostly follows a form, but there may be some inconsistencies.	The poem has a form, but it may be unclear or inconsistent.	The poem lacks a clear structure or form.
Sound & Rhythm: Does the poem have a strong rhythm or musical quality?	The poem flows smoothly with a strong sense of rhythm, sound, or rhyme where appropriate.	The poem has a good flow, with some attention to rhythm and sound.	The poem has some rhythm, but it may be uneven or inconsistent.	The poem lacks rhythm and does not flow well.
Emotion & Expression: Does the poem evoke emotion and connect with the reader?	The poem expresses deep emotions and creates a strong connection with the reader.	The poem conveys emotion well and keeps the reader engaged.	The poem has some emotion, but it may not feel fully developed.	The poem lacks emotional depth and does not connect with the reader.
Correctness: Are grammar, punctuation, and spelling correct where needed?	The poem is nearly error-free, with correct grammar, punctuation, and spelling where applicable.	The poem has a few minor errors, but they do not affect understanding.	The poem has noticeable errors that may distract from the meaning.	The poem has many errors that make it difficult to understand.