

Grades: 6th-12th

Poetry Practice and Word Choice

Common Core Standard(s): CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.3.D

Materials Needed: Chromebook/laptop for each student

Objective: Students will be able to create and revise poetry using better word choice.

Lesson Plan

1. When people think of poetry they often picture some young girl putting rhyming words together to create something cheesy, but poetry is embedded in all music lyrics and can be an amazing way to play around with words and word choice. Tell this to students. Today they are going to learn about poetry, create poetry and pay particular attention to word choice when revising their poetry.
2. Watch Leigh Statham's class titled "How to Publish Your Poetry."
3. When the video is over, have students share some of the things they learned about word choice, anything that surprised them, and/or anything they want to remember.
4. Now, tell students they are going to get a chance to write some poetry. Have them follow this link to a poetry generator: <https://www.poem-generator.org.uk/> This site essentially has them fill in the blanks and it creates a poem for them. Have them play around and create several different poems.
5. Have students print out or save the favorite poem they created. Now talk about word choice and some of the tips Leigh gave when using words in poems. With a partner, have them go back into their favorite poem and fix up the word choice. Add some simile, metaphor, personification, onomatopoeia, visual descriptors, etc.
6. When students are done with their completed revised poems, have them share it with the class or print it out. Later, you could make it into a poetry book.
7. End by telling students that word choice is just as important when writing stories. Not only does it make poetry so much better. It will also make our stories better.



**Advanced Application Activity*

Editing Skills:

For extra practice to reinforce today's topic you may assign students to work, in class or at home, on a chapter or page of their story applying the key techniques learned today. The papers can be exchanged with other students for peer review with specific attention to just the topic of focus. This will enhance editing skills and further engrain the lesson.

Revising Skills:

When the papers are returned students have the opportunity of fine tuning the skill of taking feedback and applying it to revision and rewrite of their manuscript.

Group Discussion:

After rough draft and final draft are returned it may be helpful to share what was most helpful or difficult about the feedback and how it may have helped to improve their writing.

Extra Credit:

Attend TABC Writing Conference www.teenauthorbootcamp.com

Submit your short stories, 1st paragraph & poems and gain recognition or get published.

www.teenauthorbootcamp.com/contests

