

# GREAT WRITING!

## Ideas in Selecting a Writing or Poetry Subject:

- Remember an **important time or event** in your life
- **LOOK** at the world around you
- Describe something **YOU like** or dislike
- Think of a **favorite person**
- Begin a **Cluster with the Center word** as your general idea that is related to your subject. Then cluster related words around that center word.
- **Freely list ideas** as they come to mind.
- Complete an **open ended sentence** in as many ways as you can.
- **Free write for 5-10 minutes**. Then stop and underline ideas that could serve as specific subjects for your writing.
- For poetry that rhymes, **look at key words** you've written and **list words that rhyme** with them.

rhymeline    **b c d f g h j k l m n p q r s t v w x y z**

## Writing Poetry:

- Poetry speaks to the senses, so **create pictures with words**. Take note of how the excerpt in the box paints a vivid picture with words.
- Poetry **speaks to the heart, so make sure it asks you to feel something!!**
- **Poetry looks different** from prose and poems are written in lines and stanzas (groups of lines).
- **Poetry sounds different**, so pay special attention to the sound of your work. Some great poetry techniques include
  - **Alliteration**: repeating of beginning consonant sounds
  - **End Rhyme**: the rhyming of words at the ends of lines of poetry
  - **Onomatopoeia**: the use of a word whose sound makes you think of its meaning
  - **Quatrain**: a four-line stanza
  - **Repetition**: the repeating of a word or phrase to add rhythm or to focus on an idea

### *After the Sea-Ship*

by Walt Whitman

After the Sea-Ship—after the  
whistling winds;

After the white-gray sails, taut to  
their spars and ropes,

Below, a myriad, myriad waves,  
hastening, lifting up their necks,

Tending in ceaseless flow toward the  
track of the ship:

Waves of the ocean, bubbling and  
gurgling, blithely prying,

Waves, undulating waves—liquid,  
uneven, emulous waves,

Toward that whirling current,  
laughing and buoyant, with curves,

Where the great Vessel, sailing and  
tacking, displaced the surface. . .

## Types of Poetry:

<b>Cinquain</b>	<p>Five lines, can be made of syllables or words.            Line 1: Title (noun) - 1 word            Line 2: Description - 2 words            Line 3: Action - 3 words            Line 4: Feeling (phrase) - 4 words            Line 5: Title (synonym for the title) - 1 word</p>	<p>Skip            Playful, Energetic            Loves to Jump            Always there for me            Buddy</p>
<b>Couplet</b>	<p>Two lines of verse that usually rhyme and state one complete idea. There can be poems made up of a series of couplets.</p>	<p>I think that I shall never see            A thing as lovely as a tree.</p>
<b>Free Verse</b>	<p>Does not require meter or rhyme scheme.</p>	<p>On the curb            Sign in hand, he stands.            It must be Friday.            I wait uncomfortably at the red light.            He wants to work for food.            Well, I don't have work.            It's just that simple.            On Fridays as I sit uncomfortably            In my car.</p>
<b>Quatrain</b>	<p>A four-line stanza, rhyming patterns can be: AAAA, AABB, or ABAB</p>	<p>As we circle the church on our walk,            Candles guide us through the dark night,            Singing hymns and praise to our God            As we approach, anticipating the light.</p> <p>Father pounds on the doors with the cross            Awaiting the reply of the evil one            "Trampling down death by death"            Praise God! Through Christ we have won!</p>
<b>Phrase</b>	<p>States an idea with a list of phrases.</p>	<p><b>Fog by Carl Sandburg</b></p> <p>The fog comes            on little cat feet.            It sits looking            over harbor and city            on silent haunches            and then moves on.</p>
<b>Title-Down</b>	<p>The letters that spell the subject of the poem are used to begin each line.</p>	<p>Calvary was the name of the place            Rough was the path you trod            Open wounds aching            Silent, head hurting;            Stumbling</p>

**Try these!**

rhymeline   b c d f g h j k l m n p q r s t v w x y z

<p><b>Title-Down:</b> The letters that spell the subject of the poem are used to begin each line.</p> <p><i>Calvary was the place Rough was the path you trod Open wounds aching Silent, head hurting; Stumbling</i></p>	
<p><b>Phrase:</b> States an idea with phrases</p> <p><i>It was wonderful When Jesus was on earth He was kind And healed the blind. There were miracles and It was amazing.</i></p>	
<p><b>Couplet:</b> Two lines of verse that usually rhyme and state one complete idea. A larger poem can be made up of a series of couplets.</p> <p><i>I think that I shall never see A thing as lovely as a tree.</i></p>	

## Types of Writing with Step-by-Step Instructions:

<p><b>Narrative</b></p>	<p>A story or account of events, experiences, or the like, whether true or fictitious.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Personal Narrative - experiences that have been encountered, read, or heard about. Lots of description, action, and dialogue will help make the piece interesting and engage the reader to feel what the author felt.</li> <li>• Imaginative Narrative - a made up story. Instead of being about real things, this story is about things you imagine. Creativity is the most important thing in making an imaginative story. You don't need to be afraid to go above and beyond reality. For example, instead of including events that can happen to you every day, create unusual events that could never happen in real life.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Expository</b></p>	<p>Writing that is used to describe, explain, or inform (conveys information from writer to reader.)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Steps:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Select topic – be sure that it is not too broad.</li> </ol> </li> <li>• The thesis statement and topic sentences have subjects which are about the topic and clearly state a purpose.</li> <li>• Stay away from first and second person pronouns.</li> <li>• Each paragraph should have a topic sentence, which states the purpose, and two or three sentences that provide evidence.</li> <li>• Vary sentence structure, write in active voice, use action verbs</li> </ul>
<p><b>Persuasive</b></p>	<p>Writing that attempts to convince the reader to accept a particular point of view or to take a specific action.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use evidence to support your viewpoint, consider opposing views and present a strong conclusion:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Identify the main idea or point of view and persuade the audience to accept this idea or point of view.</li> <li>2. Identify the audience and try to understand the audience.</li> <li>3. Identify the most significant opposing view.</li> </ol> </li> <li>• Think through an argument by stating an opinion.</li> <li>• Add support through evidence of prediction, statistics, observation, expert testimony, and/or comparison</li> <li>• Make concessions by identifying other valid opinions about the subject. This makes the overall argument more convincing. Some expressions to use include: even though, I agree that, I cannot argue with, admittedly.</li> </ul>