

Newspaper Poetry Instructions

1. With your group search the section of the newspaper you have and select an article that looks appealing (Remember you may have the front-page section, the sports page section, the arts page section, or even the obituary page.)

Carefully read the article you have chosen, and look for sections that stand out for you in the article. Highlight or underline details, words and phrases that you find particularly powerful, moving, or interesting.

2. On a separate sheet of paper, make a list of the details, words and phrases you underlined, keeping them in the order that you found them. Double space between lines so that the lines are easy to work with. Feel free to add others that you notice as you go through the article again.
3. Make only minor changes necessary to create your poem. You can change punctuation and make little changes to the words to make them fit together (such as change the tenses, possessives, plurals, and capitalizations). You may also repeat an important word or two. (*No more than two*)
4. When you're close to an edited down version, if you absolutely need to add a word or two to make the poem flow more smoothly, to make sense, to make a point, *you may add up to two words of your own*. That's two (2) and only two!
5. Read back over your edited draft one more time and make any deletions or minor changes.
6. Check the words and choose a title.
7. Copy the words and phrases onto your chart paper. Space or arrange the words so that they're poem-like. Pay attention to line breaks, layout, and other elements that will emphasize important words or significant ideas in the poem.

Read aloud as you arrange the words! Test the possible line breaks by pausing slightly. If it sounds good, it's probably right.

Arrange the words so that they make a rhythm you like. You can space words out so that they are all alone or allruntogether.

You can also put key words on lines by themselves.

You can shape the entire poem so that it's wide or tall or shaped like an object

Emphasize words by playing with boldface and italics, different sizes of letters, and so forth.

Don't be afraid to play with the arrangement.