

Poetry Slam Project: Write a Sonnet

Shakespearean Sonnet Requirements:

- **MUST** be 14 Lines.
 - **MUST** have 3 Quatrains (set of 4 lines) and 1 Couplet (2 lines)
 - **MUST** follow the rhyme scheme ABABCDCEFEFEGG
 - **MUST** be about love (or related subjects: envy, heartbreak, friendship, family, passions, favorite things)
 - **EXTRA CREDIT:** Must be in IAMBIC PENTAMETER (10 syllables per line)
- I. Your **First Stanza** should introduce the **SPEAKER** and **AUDIENCE**, explain the **OCCASION** or situation, and make the **SUBJECT** of the poem clear.

II. Your **Second and Third Stanza** should develop the **TONE** of the poem... what are the feelings involved? Convey these feelings using figurative language: metaphors, similes, personification. **EX: “I love you like music needs a beat”**

III. Your Rhyming Couplet at the end should resolve the poem, or provide a dramatic twist to the story. Make sure your **PURPOSE** is clear. The couplet is probably the most important two lines of the sonnet... so make them good! THE CLINCHER!

GRADING CRITERIA

Poem has fourteen lines	_____ /5
Rhyme scheme is abab cdcd efef gg	_____ /5
Each line has ten syllables	_____ /5
Structure of content is logical; fluency of writing is strong; engaging word choice	_____ /15
Punctuation is logical and grammatical	_____ /5
A picture is included that relates to the sonnet’s theme/topic	_____ /5
The speaker reads the poem with an appropriate volume, pace, tone, and facial expression	_____ /10
TOTAL	_____ /50 points

Sample Sonnet (Inspired by Sonnet 18):

Shall I compare thee to a nacho chip?
Thou art more crunchy -- though without the cheese:
Rough winds do blow when I forget the dip,
For nachos are so very hard to please:
Sometimes too hot, so I must let them cool,
And often is their gold complexion dimm'd,
But only when I make them like a fool,
By chance they burn like candles yet untrimm'd:
But thy eternal crunchiness won't fade,
Nor burn like all my failed attempts to bake,
Nor shall you be like these -- so poorly made,
Which in eternal snacking I forsake.
So long as men can breathe and tongue can taste,
Your nacho-likeness will not be erased.

Sonnet Brainstorming

Describe it using 10 words:

*Make a simile—what would
you compare your topic to?*

Write what you love:

*How does your topic make you
feel? Write 5 words*

What would you do without it?

Title:

Should I compare you to _____

You are more _____, but less _____

I feel _____ when I _____

For _____ are very _____

Sometimes too _____, sometimes too _____

And often it _____

But when I _____

It _____

But you will always be _____

And you will always be _____

Forever I _____

When I _____

So long as men can breathe and _____ can _____

Your _____ will _____

Write your rough draft on this sheet, but your final draft should be posted on Wigigio.

First Stanza:

A

B

A

B

Second Stanza:

C

D

C

D

Third Stanza:

E

F

E

F

Rhyming Couplet:

G

G

Poet's Name _____ Editor's Name _____

SONNET PEER EDIT SHEET*Check off each item as you complete it. Write a meaningful comment for each "Comment."*

_____ Count the number of syllables in each line and write the number to the left of the line.

_____ Check that the sonnet has the correct rhyme scheme and make notes if there are any errors.

Comments:

_____ Put an "x" beside any ending (rhyming) words that seem chosen just for the rhyme so that the meaning is compromised.

Comments:

_____ Check that the meter is iambic pentameter by scanning the lines OR speaking them softly to yourself to hear the meter. Circle any words that violate the iambic pentameter rhythm of the line. [Note: You'll have a hard time checking the meter for lines that are not 10 syllables.]

_____ Theme or message Write the sonnet's message here: _____

Comments:

_____ Does the poem stick to the message? Y / N

Comments:

_____ Structure: Does the poem have a logical order of contents? Y / N

Comments:

_____ Write the title here _____

_____ Does the punctuation seem to be natural so that it flows based on meaning? Y / N

Overall Feedback: