

Writing Ideas Sheet

Sometimes, a combination of writing and visual presentation is very powerful. Here are some simple writing forms that might help to structure students' work.

A good process for teaching children a new writing form is:

1. Show them a model or example of the form. (You could use the ones given here.)
2. Work together as a group to make up a new one.
3. Have the children work individually to create their own.

It's also a good idea to have a go yourself first, so you can tell how hard or easy it is!

Acrostics

- Select a key word and write it vertically.
- Choose other words or phrases relating to the topic, placed so that they use the letters of the key word. It is good to try to keep the lines about the same length.

Example:

Round the town,
Under the bridge,
Bags and bundles are
Brought and weighed.
Is it fair that
So many children
Have to work so hard?

Rhyming Couplets

- A couplet consists of two lines. These should have the same number of "beats" if you clap with the rhythm.
- The couplets end with words that rhyme.

Example:

Some children in Delhi collect stuff from bins,
 While we, in Australia, have so many things.

Triangle poems

- These short poems have decreasing numbers of syllables in each line, starting with an odd number, and decreasing by two syllables each time.
- The last word (one syllable) is very important. It is a good idea to think of it first.

Example:

Living under the big bridge (7)
 Searching for rubbish (5)
 Working hard (3)
 Poor (1)

Parsing Poems

- This is a form for older children who are learning about grammar!
- The poem consists of three lines:

- The first line is a person or thing: Based around a noun.
- The second line is an action: Based around a verb.
- The third line describes the person or thing: 3 adjectives.
- Again, try to keep the lines about the same length.

Example:

Samuel, the boy in the temple
Speaking out for God.
Brave, honest, obedient.

Cinquains. Very tricky!

- A form which depends on the number of syllables, like triangle poems.
- The pattern is:
 - First Line: 2 syllables, one word, giving title.
 - Second Line: 4 syllables, describing title.
 - Third Line: 6 syllables, expressing action.
 - Fourth Line: 8 syllables, expressing a feeling.
 - Fifth Line: 2 syllables, another word for the title.

Example:

Justice.
For you, for me.
Praying, giving, speaking
I wish we had a better world
Fairness.