

IMANI: Protest Poetry

It takes faith to write authentic poetry

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1hr 30 min workshop

Workshop Preview: Blackout Poetry

- *Sharpies*
- *Colourful Markers*
- *Old book pages for Blackout poetry*
- *Glue/ Scissors*
- *Mags for cutouts*
- *Posters of our poetry*
- *Poster Stand*

Start:

Sit in a circle - discussion

BEGIN/Ask:

Overall (15 MIN)

Introduction: Name, Age, Interests, Why we are here

Space opening: *What type of environment are we trying to create in this workshop? / safe/ inclusive / kind/ free of negative comments and energy/ equitable*

Icebreaker: Collab poetry (groups of 3)

Middle:

Poetry Warmup:

(10 MIN) Poetry introduction, piece performance

(5 MIN) First poetry prompt: Things you have overcome

(5 MIN) 2nd poetry prompt: An experience you had

(10 MIN) Small discussion

End:

(10 MIN)

(20 MIN) Main Activity

(10-15 MIN) Presentations

Collab poetry (groups of 3)**Instruction:**

*Each person writes 5 lines beginning with if, then there was, or because
Then after, working together as a group to put it all together to form a
poem.*

- 1. If*
- 2. Then there was*
- 3. Because of*

Questions/Introduction:

- Why is poetry important?*
- The necessity of poetry and expression amongst black youth*
- Types of poetry and what is best used to express emotion*

Discussion and tips:

- Spoken word poetry has the power to fight injustice*
- The words put on paper are not bound by colour*
- Poetry: a tool of expression.*
- Turning sad, angry emotions into uplifting poems that educates and expands minds.*
- Is a popular art form at protests and rallies. It demands attention and it is a powerful tool of resistance.*
- Poetry requires honesty and authenticity.*
- Intersectionality can be dissected through poetry.*

Collective poetry - *each person writes a line of poetry on the flip chart*

(Main Activity)

Protest Poems -Write a poem about something in your life that you believe should be changed or improved. Or a Social justice Issue (Feel free to include chants in your poem)

Start with the list. Think of a title. That helps me.

Ex.

Black Lives Matter protests

Discrimination

Voting rights

Gender equality

climate change

poverty

Starting with prompts, words that evoke emotion

Hardship- Write a poem based on a personal experience or one commonly heard of or seen and the effect it has on yourself and those around you.

Label the targeted emotion, think of words that evoke the emotion

Ex: Emotion-Grief, vocabulary-sorrow, misery, anguish

Poems of Protest, Resistance, and Empowerment

- *I look at the world. Langston Hughes.*
- *Caged Bird. Maya Angelou.*
- *Making Peace. Denise Levertov.*
- *Poem (I lived in the first century of world wars) Muriel Rukeyser.*
- *Boy Breaking Glass. Gwendolyn Brooks.*
- *Bent to the Earth. Blas Manuel De Luna.*
- *America. Allen Ginsberg.*
- *America. Claude McKay.*

JUNE JORDAN

EDITOR: SOULSCRIPT: AFRO-AMERICAN POETRY, 1970

AUTHOR: HIS OWN WHERE, 1971 (Teen Novel)
SOME CHANGES, 1970 (Poems)
NEW DAYS, 1973 (Poems)
WHO LOOK AT ME, 1969 (Black History)
DRY VICTORIES, 1973 (Black History)

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HER
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