Poetry Lesson Plan: Teaching Mechanics of Poetry Using a Poetry Slam
Grades: 9-12

Subject: Language Arts

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<th>Summary</th>
<th>A poetry slam is a competition in which poets present their original work in front of an audience and panel of judges. This lesson will create a poetry slam in the classroom, forcing students to define, compose, practice, perform, and judge poetry.</th>
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| Objectives | • Become familiar with various forms of poetry  
• Demonstrate knowledge of poetic devices  
• Build confidence in group interactions, using Spaaze as a collaborating platform  
• Work cooperatively to produce the poetry slam |
| Materials | • Computer access  
• Spaaze  
• Paper  
• Writing utensils |
| Procedure | 1. **Introduce the lesson:** explain a poetry slam  
2. **Have students choose roles:** have students divide themselves into listeners, judges, and performers. A minimum of 6 performers will be needed.  
3. **Discuss poetry devices and forms:** explore poetic techniques  
4. **Writing:** have students pick a theme as a class, then, in groups, collaborate using Spaaze to write a few poems using different poetic themes and devices.  
5. **Review the poetry slam procedure:** cover what’s needed to produce the slam  
6. **Write performance poem:** have all students write one or more quality poems to be submitted on a classroom Spaaze board. The students that will be performing in the slam may then choose to recite their own poem or pick another from the classroom Spaaze board.  
7. **Hold the poetry slam** |
| Assessment | Discuss prior to the slam the qualities a good poem has. After the slam, grade the turned in poems based on these qualities and effort put into the poem. Grades will not be based on slam scores. |
| Standards | • Demonstrates competence in general writing skills and strategies  
• Gathers and uses information for research purposes.  
• Demonstrates competence in general reading skills and strategies for reading a variety of literary and informational texts  
• Demonstrates competence in speaking and listening  
• Uses grammatical and mechanical conventions in written compositions. |

**Lesson plan based on PBS Newshour Extra:**
http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/features/jan-june00/poetryboxlessonplanone.html