

# Poetry Lesson Plan: Teaching Mechanics of Poetry Using a Poetry Slam

Grades: 9-12

Subject: Language Arts

<p>Summary</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>Objectives</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Become familiar with various forms of poetry</li> <li>• Demonstrate knowledge of poetic devices</li> <li>• Build confidence in group interactions, using Spaaaze as a collaborating platform</li> <li>• Work cooperatively to produce the poetry slam</li> </ul>
<p>Materials</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Computer access             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spaaaze</li> <li>• Paper</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Writing utensils</li> </ul>
<p>Procedure</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Introduce the lesson:</b> explain a poetry slam</li> <li>2. <b>Have students choose roles:</b> have students divide themselves into listeners, judges, and performers. A minimum of 6 performers will be needed.</li> <li>3. <b>Discuss poetry devices and forms:</b> explore poetic techniques</li> <li>4. <b>Writing:</b> have students pick a theme as a class, then, in groups, collaborate using Spaaaze to write a few poems using different poetic themes and devices.</li> <li>5. <b>Review the poetry slam procedure:</b> cover what's needed to produce the slam</li> <li>6. <b>Write performance poem:</b> have all students write one or more quality poems to be submitted on a classroom Spaaaze board. The students that will be performing in the slam may then choose to recite their own poem or pick another from the classroom Spaaaze board.</li> <li>7. <b>Hold the poetry slam</b></li> </ol>
<p>Assessment</p>	<p>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.</p>

Standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Demonstrates competence in general writing skills and strategies</li><li>• Gathers and uses information for research purposes.</li><li>• Demonstrates competence in general reading skills and strategies for reading a variety of literary and informational texts</li><li>• Demonstrates competence in speaking and listening<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Uses grammatical and mechanical conventions in written compositions.</li></ul></li></ul>
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**Lesson plan based on PBS Newshour Extra:**

<http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/features/jan-june00/poetryboxlessonplanone.html>