

# Spoken Word Elements

## Type and Subject

Choose a way to deliver a spoken word poem: stories, poems, monologues, rap, music, improvisation, even as stand-up comedy!

Choose a subject/topic, typically socio-political and one that you are passionate about.

## Method

**RHYME:** Similar sounds at the ends of sentences. (Spoken word does not have to rhyme in a traditional fashion, but rhyming elements at certain points provides emphasis and emotional response.)

**RHYTHM:** Different amount of stress on different syllables. can use poetic devices such as onomatopoeia, alliteration, and assonance as ways to enhance rhythm and emphasize feelings.

**REPETITION:** Repeating certain phrases throughout the poem.

**WORDPLAY:** Mix of pictures, feelings, and sounds to heighten creativity and sophistication.

## Language

**CONCRETE:** Words and phrases that elicit and bring to life vivid images, sounds, actions, and sensations. Verbal imagery that invites listeners to see, smell, or taste descriptions.

## Attitude

**PASSION:** Emotions and opinions are the core of spoken word that embody the poet's unique perspective.

## Performance

**PAUSES:** Timed pauses before a new line begins and a line ends to heighten emphasis and impact

**PACE:** As if telling a story without any script

pitch, rate, volume: Vary within the poem. Use voice to put emphasis on different words. Rate is not too fast. Volume varies for emphasis.

**FACIAL EXPRESSIONS:** Expressions that vary to exhibit desired mood and feelings.

**GESTURES:** Hand motions and body movement for emphasis of points and messages.

**EYE CONTACT:** Direct eye contact with audience members at certain parts of the poem for emphasis.

**POSTURE:** Stand straight and tall, head high, chin up to generate appearance of confidence and assertiveness.

**BODY LANGUAGE:** Vary for desired moods to display as they related to the poem.

**PROJECTION:** Speak loudly and clearly; enunciate clearly.