

WHO AND WHAT ARE YOU?

Your assignment is to write an “I Am” poem. It is not necessary to keep the title “I Am”, but you must follow the directions below. As seniors in high school approach the exciting yet frightening end of an era it is a great opportunity to reflect on who they’ve become and whom they aspire to be in the future.

Begin by describing two things about yourself; try to only include what others in this classroom may find to be interesting, something about you that may not be known. Please avoid the obvious and the ordinary, such as, “I am a 17-year-old boy with brown hair.”

Think of the qualities, perceptions, and thoughts that make you distinctive. A better example might be: “I am a girl who bruises easily and believes in astrology when the stars are right.” This statement gives a sense of the speaker and how she may differ from other people. Don’t be afraid to be different. (This assignment would be quite boring if our poems were all the same.)

Below is a line-by-line guide for those who suffer from metrophobia. You can simply treat it like a mad-lib and fill in the details.

Everyone is encouraged to deviate from the format at some point. Those who enjoy poetry often begin without following the form below. The only rules are that the poems must be about the author and include *attempts to employ literary techniques: we will be looking at metaphors, conceit, and irony* very closely this semester.

Students are required to complete six (6) rough drafts throughout the semester on their way to creating one (1) final draft for a total of seven (7) poems to be submitted by January 5, 2018.

I Am

Please consider changing the title as you create drafts.

1st Stanza

I am (two special characteristics you have)
I wonder (something that you are actually curious about)
I hear (an imaginary sound)
I see (an imaginary sight)
I want (an actual desire)
I am (the first line of the poem repeated)

You are greatly encouraged to be creative and deviate from this format if you desire.

If those around you would comment on your sense of humor, make an attempt to include something funny.

2nd Stanza

I pretend (something that you actually pretend to do)
I feel (a feeling about something imaginary)
I touch (an imaginary touch)
I worry (something that really bothers you)
I cry (something that makes you very sad)
I am (the first line of the poem repeated)

Again, if these prompts feel awkward, please write anything in any format. The subject is one you should know, so put yourself on paper. Try comparing yourself to something; similes are always useful and entertaining.

3rd Stanza

I understand (something you know)
I say (something you believe in)
I dream (something you actually dream about)
I try (something you really make an effort about)
I hope (something you actually hope for)
I am (the first line of the poem repeated)

Consider saying the opposite of the prompts or something that you don’t “understand” or that “dream” will cease to be.

Consider using metaphor. This could be an opportunity to employ conceit as well.