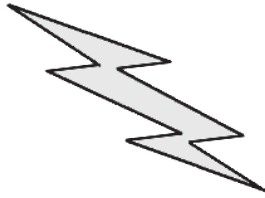


PART THREE

LESSON 1: WRITING YOUR OWN WORDS – THREE SHORT ACTIVITIES

When you and your students read and explore the poetry in Joe Davis's book, *We Rise Higher*, you'll notice that he includes poetry reflection and writing suggestions after many poems. Davis calls them **An Invitation**. He also provides suggestions at <https://joedavispoetry.com/resources>. Here are three writing activities from Joe Davis to try before or after the WITNESS Young People's Concert:

- Writing a Lightning Poem
- Letter to Self
- Sense Sentences



ACTIVITY # 1: LIGHTNING POEM

YOU WILL NEED:

- To decide if students will work individually, in pairs or a small group
- Writing materials: paper & pencils or large chart paper & markers

WHAT TO DO:

Note: Tell students the name of the activity, Lightning Poetry. What do they think that means? (They should work quickly – fast as a lightning bolt, go with their first ideas, don't do much editing.)

Choose one word as a theme for the writing exercise. This word can be chosen by an individual or a group. Write the theme word at the top of their page.

STEP 1: Brainstorm and come up with 7 words that are related to the selected theme word, making sure that the words are a mix of nouns, adjectives, and verbs. Write these words below the theme.

STEP 2: Working for three minutes, have students write a poem, story, or song using the seven words listed below the theme. It can be silly or serious, express any emotion they may be feeling, or tell any story they want to tell. It doesn't have to rhyme unless they want it to. There's no right or wrong way to do it as long as they try. *It's all about participation, not perfection.*

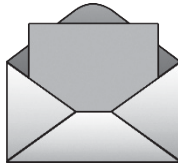
STEP 3: Try to use all 7 words. Students can use any other words if they want.

STEP 4: Set a timer for 3 minutes to complete the piece. Challenge students to create the most interesting piece they can. Remember the emphasis of this exercise is on having fun and being creative!

ACTIVITY # 2: LETTER TO SELF

YOU WILL NEED:

- Paper and pencils



WHAT TO DO:

STEP 1: Write a letter to your younger self. What words of wisdom, affirmation, encouragement, or motivation would you offer your young self?

STEP 2: Write a letter to your future self. What questions, hopes, and dreams would you share you're your older self?

STEP 3: Take time to reflect on the similarities and differences between these two letters. What can you apply and integrate into your life now, in this present moment?

ACTIVITY # 3: SENSE SENTENCES

YOU WILL NEED:

- To decide if students will work alone, or with a partner
- Copies of the **Sense Sentences** student worksheet, included in this lesson

WHAT TO DO:

STEP 1: Ask students to name the 5 senses. Write them on the board.
(see, hear, smell, touch, taste)

STEP 2: Distribute copies of the **Sense Sentences Worksheet**, and ask students to choose an abstract concept or idea and describe it using the five senses. For example:

- If joy was a taste, it would taste like...
- If joy was a smell, it would smell like...
- If joy was a sound, it would sound like...
- If I could see joy, it would look like...
- If I could touch joy, it would feel like...

STEP 3: Ask students to share their spoken word poem with the class by speaking out loud. Encourage students to explore vocal inflections and movement with their bodies to bring the poem to life. Encourage students listening to give the performing student claps or finger snaps to congratulate and encourage them for their performance.

SENSE SENTENCES WORKSHEET

My idea or concept is _____.



If _____ was a taste, it would taste like _____.



If _____ was a smell, it would smell like _____.



If _____ was a sound, it would sound like _____.



If I could see _____, it would look like _____.



If I could touch _____, it would feel like _____.

When you finish, practice reading all the words on the page OUT LOUD as a Spoken Word poem. Be creative in using your voice and movement with your body to bring the poem to life through your performance!

Name(s): _____

Date: _____