

Sold Lens and Artifact Assessment: Found Poetry in a Non-Fiction Article

A Found Poem is the artistic equivalent of a literary collage. The poet takes existing pieces of text and arranges them (by deleting unneeded text and highlighting important words or phrases) to form a poem. The organization is not random. While the order of words/passages may be changed from the order in which they appear in the actual text (through creative design), the words and passages themselves remain intact.

Your Found Poem is fulfilling three requirements:

1. An assessment of your ability to compose a clear, arguable **Thesis and Summary** of a non-fiction article (*Step 3 below*).
2. A **Lens and Artifact Assessment** in which you use a non-fiction article about sex-trafficking in Connecticut to say something important about your understanding of the novel-told-in-verse, *Sold* by Patricia McCormick.
3. A **Creative Outlet** in a data-driven world! I don't think that I need to say more...

Step 1: Reread the article closely. Highlight words and phrases that have an emotional impact on you, or that create vivid images in your mind, or that you admire because of the author's style.

Step 2: Carefully re-read the words/phrases you have highlighted and select the ones you want in your poem. Create a found poem based on what you've highlighted in the article.

- Select and organize the words and phrases in such a way **that a deeper meaning is revealed**. In other word, your poem "is about" the article's topic, but is creative and imaginative in form.
- Punctuate lines as you would like. You may change the tenses, possessives, plurals.
- Hide everything that is dull or that does not help express your overall meaning (you are creating a picture and idea with these "found" words) with your artistic representation.
- The only words of your own that you may add are words to form a title. You may also use a word from the article for your title. The title should reflect your poem. You don't have to have a title. Title can also be 1st line of poem.
- Pay attention to line breaks and layout, as this is a way to emphasize significant words and ideas, and also to add a rhythm if you want your poem to have one.

Step 3 (Article Thesis and Summary):In MLA format (typed, double spaced, 12 point Times New Roman or Arial font, etc.) and on a separate piece of paper that will be attached to the bottom of your Found Poem, write 1 to 2 paragraphs (min. 250 words) summarizing the article. Your first sentence or two will be the thesis that you developed from your **Thesis Building Worksheet**

Poems are to be a minimum (earning no higher than a C+) of 20 lines and 70 words long and the thesis and summary must be at least 250 words. Your poem must show thoughtfulness and must clearly present a focused idea. Indicate the number of words you used in your **Found Poem** on the back and a word count at the bottom of the **Article Thesis and Summary**. Turn in rubric with poem and article summary.

Date due: _____ Turn in rubric with poem and summary (thus, 3 items).

Found Poem Rubric

Name _____ period _____

Message _____/20

- Main idea of poem is clear and easily identified
- Main idea is unique

Words & Phrases _____/20

- Vivid; show careful selection (min. use of articles)
- Support main idea of poem
- Chosen from different pages in the chapter

Flow _____/10

- Layout and punctuation enhance understanding of poem
- Lines and stanzas organized effectively to create a main idea/message

Article Summary _____/30

- Thesis is concise, relevant to the article, and arguable
- Relevant evidence is used to support thesis

Presentation _____/20

- Min. 70 words and 20 lines (for 7 of 10 points)
- Use of creative design is evident in final product (up to 10 points)

TOTAL _____/100