

Found Poetry Handout: 1A

What is a found poem?

Found poetry is a type of poetry created by taking words, phrases, and sometimes whole passages from other sources and reframing them as poetry by making changes in spacing and lines, or by adding or deleting text, thus imparting new meaning. The resulting poem can be defined as either ***treated***: changed in a profound and systematic manner; or ***untreated***: virtually unchanged from the order, syntax and meaning of the original.

HOW TO WRITE A FOUND POEM:

A found poem uses language from non-poetic contexts and turns it into poetry. Think of a collage -- visual artists take scraps of newspaper, cloth, feathers, bottle caps, and create magic. You can do the same with language and poems.

Writing this type of poetry is a kind of treasure hunt. Search for interesting scraps of language, then put them together in different ways and see what comes out. Putting seemingly unrelated things together can create a kind of chemical spark, leading to surprising results. (juxtaposition)

You might end up rewriting the poem in the end and taking all the found language out, or you can opt to keep the found scraps of language almost in their original form. Either way, found language is a great way to jolt your imagination.

There are no rules for found poetry, as long as you are careful to respect copyright.

YOUR TASK:

- 1. Reread and revisit your journal and annotated notes from *Civil Disobedience*.**
- 2. Choose one passage. Create a found poem, including a visual art component. Once you choose the words that summarize the essence of the Thoreau, you must draw an image that reflects the meaning you find. You are to infuse the found poem and your visual art together. Be neat. Mount art carefully.**
- 3. ART ANALYSIS: Answer the following questions on a separate in respect to your completed art piece. Your answers should be in complete sentences and form a paragraph that explains to viewers how you summarized and interpreted Thoreau's passage.**

BE THOREAU!

Analysing Art: (Your completed art piece)

Content: Look at the subject of the work.

- What is it?
- What do you see? What does it represent?
- What is the theme of the work?

Mood: look at the communication of the moods and feelings it gives.

- What materials and tools have been used?
- Why do you feel like this?
- What colors, words, and images were selected to create a specific feel?

Interpretation and Justification: look at the meaning of the work.

After analysing the content and mood...

What do you think the author is saying? Why? (You are the author)

What message is the author trying to communicate through the piece? Why?