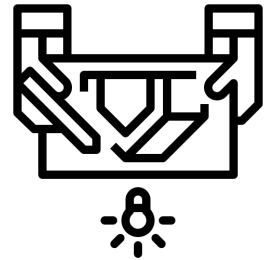


1. First Draft:

A poet's first piece of writing is never their final draft. Always **keep a copy** of your original poem, so you can go back to the ideas in your first draft if you need to.

2. Second Draft

Read through your poem looking for areas where you could **refine** your work by using **figurative language**, playing with **structure** or using interesting **rhythm**. Read it at least twice before attempting to alter it. You must **read your poem aloud** so you can get a sense of how its sound and rhythm flow.

**Think about...****Experimenting with word choice.**

- Use a thesaurus or search for *synonyms* to find the most effective word for your poem.
- Replace simplistic words with evocative words.
- Use specific language. For example, “bumblebee yellow” creates a better image than just “yellow.”

When you make revisions, you can cut words but also add them. Be brave! Don't be precious about your words; they're safe in your original copy.

- Look closely at your lines. What words can be taken out to express ideas in fewer words?
- Try removing words, phrases, lines or whole stanzas to see if the poem is more effective.



Look at your line breaks. The end of a line need not be the end of a sentence.

- The word out at the end of each line should have special weight, strong words that create emphasis. Think about whether **enjambment** or **end-stops** will be more effective in communicating meaning.
- Use punctuation to help guide the reader to read the poem the way you intended.

Listen for the rhythm of your poem. Read your poem out loud!

- Do you have a word with too many syllables or not enough?
- Do you have any alliteration, assonance, or consonance that you want to develop further?

Use poetic devices to improve your poem:

- **Simile** – comparison using *like* or *as*: *his hair was short and spiky like a hedgehog atop his skill*
- **Metaphor** – a direct comparison: *The wind was a howling dog, readying to hunt.*
- **Personification** – giving human qualities to nonhuman things: *The light danced on the surface of the lake.*
- **Tone** – the emotional ‘voice’ your poem has
- **Point of view** – whose point of view is the poem from?
- **Imagery** – creating pictures with words
- **Alliteration, assonance, or consonance** – repeating the same letters, word or phrases