

ENTRY E – THE FAVORITE POEM PROJECT

People who enjoy reading poetry do so because it inspires, provokes, challenges and touches them. They see a well-written poem as a compact series of meticulously arranged words bursting with emotion and purpose. For these people, a poem can represent a call to action, a window to another world, or a momentary yet powerful observation on the human condition.

Throughout the year, you have worked diligently to become more media-savvy and have refined your skills as a debater, researcher, literary critic and author. While the first five entries in the digital portfolio hopefully challenged you to *think* deeply and critically about a wide range of topics, this final task will hopefully inspire you to *feel* as well.

THE TASK

You will sample a wide range of poetry and eventually choose one specific work that touches, teaches, motivates or informs you. You will then commit this poem to memory. In a video of approximately three to five (3 – 5) minutes, you will recite this poem for your audience and reflect on its significance to you. Please keep the following guidelines / suggestions in mind as you prepare your presentation:

1. This assignment is significantly different from the literary analysis paper tied to *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*. This time, I am not interested in the poem's significance as seen through the eyes of university scholars or professional literary reviewers; this assignment challenges you to draw your own emotional response from literature. In other words, there is no right or wrong answer—whatever memories, inspiration or perspective you gain from your selected work is all that matters.
2. This assignment is a direct reproduction of the Favorite Poem Project created by United States Poet Laureate Robert Pinsky in 1997. In less than a year, over 18 000 Americans contributed their favorite poems and wrote a brief explanation of the significance behind their selections. Visit the Library of Congress web site to view some of the fifty videos of everyday people reciting and reflecting on their chosen poems for additional assistance.
3. There is no minimum or maximum number of lines your poem must contain for this entry. The only restriction you must accommodate is that related to time (3 – 5 minutes).
4. Have fun with this assignment. While it may feel awkward reciting a poem and reflecting on its impact on your emotional or philosophical side, throw caution to the wind and do your best.

ARE WE DONE AFTER THIS?

The short answer to this question is 'yes'. Once you record this sixth and final entry and integrate it into your digital portfolio, you will have successfully navigated your way through an intensely challenging endeavor. Congratulations! You deserve rich recognition for the tenacity, patience, diligence and enthusiasm you devoted to this nine-month project. All that remains is the Digital Portfolio Interview Project in June...

Although this entry represents the final commitment to the digital portfolio associated with this course, don't allow the crucial skills, attitudes and knowledge bases you refined along the way to fade from memory. The mindset you devoted to successfully navigating this project is exactly what you will need to master the challenges associated with university study and the workplace.