



Poetry Project #3

The Barbaric Yawp

Spoken-Word Poetry

5 pts.
Aprx. 40 lines



The spoken word tradition has roots that go very far back in Western history—basically to humanity's very earliest days. The Beat movement of the 1950s revitalized it for contemporary America, and it has since been going strong with the advent of poetry "slams" in the 1980s through today.

Closely linked to rap and street culture, spoken word poetry tends to be relatively raw, energetic, outward-directed and reliant upon a good stage performance. That is, it may not always hold up especially well on paper, but that is not its intended medium. Spoken word must be delivered live, and the "acting" of the speaker is a big part of the work itself. Poetry slams, when done well, are delirious, energetic, and very interactive—the audience talks, hollers, judges...basically acts as part of the performance itself.

For this option, you should write a poem which is meant to be performed. You'll hand in as a You Tube performance of your poem (audio-visual or just audio) and also include a written version in your chapbook at the end of the term.

If you are more used to other kinds of recording media, you may use those, as long as you can post the file to Bb.

Criteria

Your performance needs to be very audible (project!) and involve at least a little integral body movement if you are using visuals. Come forward; don't hide against the far wall or a podium. Modulate your voice as appropriate. No staring down at a piece of paper. Extra kudos for memorizing your piece! Props, background audio, and screen material are all ok. Be sure to watch [the Power Point presentation on this form](#), and to check out samples online.

Your file—whether an .mp4 or something else—should be crisp enough to be visually satisfactory. No distracting background noise, if possible.

Aim for aprx. 40 lines.

Grading

Grading scale for all poetry projects:

Outstanding = A Meets all of the stated criteria and instructions exceptionally well. Excels in inventiveness, originality, and energy, relative to work produced generally in 229. Well-edited and proofed. May be publishable in journals that publish college writing.

= 5 pts..

Very Good = B Meets all of the stated criteria and instructions, or meets several of them exceptionally well, despite a weak performance with others.. May be especially striking in spots, despite noticeable flaws. Very competent, but may lack originality or inventiveness, relative to work produced generally in 229. Good attention to style and mechanics. Clear attention to assignment.

= 3.5 pts.

Fair = C Meets most of the stated criteria, or meets all of them only partially. Not very inspired, but fairly competent; or very inspired but lacking competence in key areas.. May show some inattention to, or misunderstanding of, instructions. Weak proofreading and editing. May not have gone through the entire workshoppin process.

=2pts.

Poor = D Meets few of the criteria. May not heed or understand instructions. May be sloppy, unproofed, unedited, and/or very perfunctory and uninspired.. An unsatisfying poem, saved by at least minimal attention to at least one facet of the piece.

= 1/2 pt.

Unacceptable = F = less than 0 pts. Poem either fails to meet any of the stated criteria, or demonstrates severe oversights or weaknesses in significant areas.