

## Persona Poem Requirements

- Write as your persona—in the 1st person (I, me, my, we, etc.)
- The story/subject of your poem can be anything as long as it comes from the perspective of your persona.
- Give the poem a specific context—avoid generalizations—this is not a poem *about* your persona. Do not write about how the speaker feels about him-/her-/itself in general. Have a specific event that triggers the poem in the first place.
  - Example
    - **Speaker:** homeless man
    - **Specific event that is the subject/story of the poem:** being attacked and robbed
  - If you find your speaker explaining (telling) how he/she/it “feels,” edit it out! Allow us to experience those feelings by giving us concrete imagery and metaphors that we can truly understand.
  - Remember: “No ideas but in *things*” (William Carlos Williams)
- Open form (no fixed rhyme or meter)
- Concrete imagery (**show**; don't tell)
- Figurative language (give your readers *something* concrete—something we can connect to)
- 12-16 line minimum (artificial boundary, but you know what it means. . . .)
- Sound and Sense device (don't force it, though)

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