

AIR QUALITY FOUND POEM



ACTIVITY GUIDE



EPISODE 113: TAKE A DEEP BREATH

Mr. Kass talked us through how to write a found poem that attempts to capture the main idea of a piece of writing about air quality.

1. Find your own passage about air quality and read through it. Write down the main idea you think the passage is trying to express.
2. Underline or circle words in the passage you think help to express that main idea.
3. Use those words and create your own found poem. Try to use the five senses where you can and make sure your poem expresses the main idea of the passage. Try to write 15 lines.
4. See the example from Mr Kass below.

Source passage:

Air Pollution

"Sometimes, air pollution is visible. A person can see dark smoke pour from the exhaust pipes of large trucks or factories, for example. More often, however, air pollution is invisible.

Polluted air can be dangerous, even if the pollutants are invisible. It can make people's eyes burn and make them have difficulty breathing. It can also increase the risk of lung cancer."

Writers: Diane Boudreau, Melissa McDaniel, Erin Sprout, Andrew Turgeon

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What's the main idea of this passage?

Mr. Kass thinks it's that whether air pollution is visible or invisible, it's dangerous.

Here is the same passage, but now Mr. Kass put the words he might use in a poem in red.

Air Pollution

Sometimes, **air pollution** is **visible**. A person can see **dark smoke pour from** the **exhaust pipes** of **large trucks or factories**, for example. More often, however, air pollution is **invisible**.

Polluted air can be **dangerous**, even if the pollutants are invisible. It can make people's **eyes burn** and make them have **difficulty breathing**. It can also increase the **risk of lung cancer**.

Now, he'll take the words he chose and turn them into a poem. Note how he uses repetition, line breaks and stanza breaks to try and get across the main idea that pollution is dangerous whether we can see it or not. See the completed poem on the next page.

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Air Pollution

Sometimes visible

Sometimes dark smoke
from factories

Sometimes exhaust
pouring from pipes
or large trucks

Sometimes invisible

Eyes burn
breathing difficult
lungs risk cancer

Visible
Invisible

Dangerous
Dangerous
Dangerous

Now it's your turn! Find a passage. Follow the steps above and make your own found poem. You can move words around, repeat them, and even slightly change some of them.