**Creative Writing – Mrs. Hadden Assignment Week of May 11th-15th**

Name:

**Slam Poetry: This is My Voice Assignment**

As Shane Koyczan says, “This is my voice. There are many like it, but this one is mine.” We all have our own voice, our own tool for self-expression and a call for change and social justice.

After looking at a multitude of poems’ themes and styles, it is time to create your own, to exercise YOUR voice, which no one else has.

Just as a voice is not meant to be silent, neither are you and neither is your poem. We have also watched slam poetry and analyzed how the presentation of slam poems can affect its meaning. Slam poetry competitions exist because slam poets are able to display insane amounts of emotion themselves and draw emotion from their audience. The performance aspect of slam poetry can greatly increase how effective the poem is as we have seen from slam poems across the web. Strong presentation adds an entire element to the piece.

**So here’s the assignment**: you will write your own slam poem that represents you and some element of your identity--your voice. A huge **element of slam poetry is a call for the correction of some social problem**. (This can be as individual as a little kid who is bullied at school or as large as a call to end world hunger.) You will clearly establish a “wrong” that you wish to rectify and provide a sense of solution/direction for change in your slam poem.

Within each poem, you will also exhibit elements of slam poetry that we have discussed in class. Poems will need to establish **a strong use of tone, volume, rhythm, pacing, gesture to convey purpose. You will also need to include metaphor, vivid imagery and repetition**

**and at least two instances of: alliteration, rhythm, symbolism, onomatopoeia, irony, and juxtaposition**. Do not let these literary devices limit the poem--after all, slam poetry is still about expression.

**Slam Rules:**

Content, form, and structure guidelines—borrowed directly from the “Louder than a bomb— Omaha” website:

1. All poems must be the original work of the poet(s) performing them. Plagiarized poems will be disqualified (i.e. will receive a score of 0.0). Note: direct quotations, allusions, or clear

inspiration typically do not count as plagiarism.

2. Content matter should not exceed a PG-13 rating, i.e. avoid excessive violence, sexually

explicit content or language, profanity, discriminatory language, or language which is degrading to any group of people. Poems may still deal with the ideas or notions of violence, sex, profanity, discrimination, or degradation (and so on), but should not perpetuate such things.

3. Poems may last up to 3 minutes before time-penalties are assessed.

4. Beyond these rules, there are no restrictions placed on form, content, or structure of the

poems or the performances thereof.

**You might think about these topics as you develop your poem...**

* An injustice you’ve seen
* A time in which you were scared
* A person or event that impacted you
* A losing battle
* Something you wish others would realize about you

**Your Possible Slam Poem Ideas**

1.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

3.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_­

4. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

5.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Slam Poem Planning Sheet**

**You are encouraged to be creative with your poetic form, but you should consider this common poetry slam structure. Pick one of your possible ideas and consider the elements below. Type out your response to each element.**

1. What? (Present a problem or observation)
2. Character/Narration (Introduce speakers, characters, story)
3. Refrain (like a chorus -- what is most important to repeat and emphasize?)
4. Sermon (what is your moral?)
5. Closer (how can you leave an impression/what’s your call to action)

**Once you are done brainstorming, start writing your poem on the next page! Poems should be 1:15-2:30 minutes when performed.**

**Type your final draft of your slam poem below. Your poem should be at least 20 lines long.**

Title of slam poem: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ By: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_