

BIOPOEMS

Teacher Instruction Sheet

Purpose:

A biopoem encourages students to synthesize large amounts of material within a poetic format. The biopoem follows a suggested pattern (found below) that demands that students reflect on what they have learned about a person, place, thing, concept, or event under study.

Directions:

Have students write their biopoems using the pattern suggested below:

Line 1: First name

Line 2: Four traits that describe character

Line 3: Relative ("brother," "sister," daughter," etc.) of _____

Line 4: Lover of _____ (list three things or people)

Line 5: Who feels _____ (three items)

Line 6: Who needs _____ (three items)

Line 7: Who fears _____ (three items)

Line 8: Who gives _____ (three items)

Line 9: Who would like to see _____ (three items)

Line 10: Resident of _____

Line 11: Last name

Give clear instructions to students on how to write their biopoems and on what subject, theme, or person they should write their poems.

Evaluation:

Because the primary purpose of a biopoem is to assess students understanding, rather than poetic ability, the biopoem should be evaluated mainly on the ideas rather than on the language. Teachers can evaluate a biopoem easily through a simple rubric that is passed out to students prior to turning in the finished product. Teachers can also evaluate the biopoem through peer responses or student reaction to the experience of writing the biopoem.

Jennifer Reynolds, BYU, 2003