

*Civil Rights Movement:
Reflection through Poetry*

The Civil Rights Movement has been written about in many ways, and poetry is just one of the forms that has been used to capture the importance and emotion behind this critical time in history. In order for you to reflect on this significant era, you will use your knowledge of the Civil Rights Movement to write a poem about the events that took place.

Steps to Success

1. To see an example of Civil Rights-related poetry, go to Learning Links and read the poem “The Ballad of Birmingham”.
2. Review your notes on all of the Civil Rights events/moments the class studied.
3. Determine which event(s) you would like to reflect on in your poetry.
 - a. You can pick just one event and go into much more specific detail.
 - b. You can pick multiple events and touch upon each of them.
4. Collect the facts you will incorporate into your poem to provide the history/content.
5. Write your poem; the style is completely up to you, but the length should be at least 30 lines (if you are writing a haiku collection, this would mean a minimum of 10 haikus).

Please include the following:

- a. Effective title
- b. History of the event(s) with accurate information
- c. Figurative language (ex: metaphor, simile, alliteration, personification, etc.)
- d. Strong/effective word choice
- e. Why it mattered → This does not have to be explicitly stated, and it is probably better if it isn't; rather, the importance of the event(s) should be clear to the reader through everything that is described.

How You Will Be Graded

Expectations	Score
Effective title	/1
History of the event(s) with accurate information	/15
Figurative language	/2
Strong word choice	/2
Why it mattered is clear	/5
Correct number of lines minimum (minus point for less)	
GPS = practically perfect in every way (minus points for major errors)	
Comments:	
	/25

