**Poetry Writing Pre and Post Assessment Suggestion**

**Before you begin** this unit, please ask your students to do some poetry writing to gather some baseline data. You might try something like the following prompt:

* + *Writers, today I’m going to give you some time to write a poem about something that matters to you. Remember to use everything you know about good poetry writing.*

Remember that the goal is not to have a class set of excellent poems. The point of this is to see what students do in response to this prompt so that you know what to teach. Allow students to work independently, so that your teaching matches their needs appropriately.

As you observe students “finishing,” you can ask them to revise with their revision pens. This will give you information about what they know about revising poetry as well as drafting.

**Questions to guide your analysis of student work:**

* What do students think poetry is?
* What do students remember about studying poetry from last year?
* What are students using from the units you have studied so far this year?
* Are students selecting meaningful topics?
* Do students write with details?
* How are students using line breaks, white space, and punctuation?
* How are students using their knowledge of structure, elaboration, conventions/craft, and meaning?

**Pose the same prompt to students at the end of the unit to document progress.**