**Politicians, Political Parties, Platforms and Poems**

**Assignment**: You are to create a poem to be performed in a poetry slam in front of your classmates. Using a scale from one to five with five as the best, you will be judged how good your poem and performance is by your classmates. I will collect all the scores and average them together to obtain a grade for your performance. This grade will count as a project grade.

**Rules:**

* Your poem must be about political parties, their platforms, bases, beliefs, or beef you have with the party. There are no restrictions on rhyme or meter.
* Your poem must be at least ninety seconds long. And no longer than two minutes and thirty seconds.
* Your poem must make sense.
* You minimal to no use of profanity or make any inappropriate allusions.
* You may recite the poem from memory or read it to the class.

**Scores**

**5** The student recited the poem from memory without pausing except where natural pauses would occur in the poem. The student kept continual eye contact with the audience members and seemed relaxed. The poem had a theme that was easily understood, and the poet could easily be heard by all the audience members. The poet met the time limit.

**4** The poet read the poem or paused frequently at unintentional places while reciting the poem from memory. The poet did not keep continual eye contact with the audience or appeared nervous. One or two parts of the poem’s theme was unclear or the poet was not loud enough to be heard by everyone in the audience. The poet missed the time limit by five seconds or less.

**3** The poem read the poem or paused frequently at unintentional places while reciting the poem from memory. The poet rarely made eye contact with the audience, appeared overly nervous, and was not loud enough to be heard by most people in the audience. Most of the poem’s theme was unclear. The poet missed the time limit by six to ten seconds.

**2** The poet recited the poem and constantly paused at unintentional places. The poet made no contact with the audience and appeared extremely nervous. The poem’s theme made no sense. Nobody in the audience could hear the poet. The poet missed the time limit by eleven to fifteen seconds.

1 The poet’s performance was so bad that the audience members were embarrassed for the poet. The poet missed the time limit by more than fifteen seconds.

**Grades**:

5 = 100 4.6 – 4.9 = 95

4 = 80 4.1 – 4.5 = 85

3 = 70 3.6 – 3.9 = 75

2 = 60

1 = 40

**Samples to Study:**

Common—"A Letter to the Law"

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LssFolrpiD4>

Carlos Andres Gomez—"Vote for Them"

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6zSCHdKeydw>

Panama Soweto—"What Would George Bush Do?"

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hbb5uP5KJDo>

Saul Williams—"Coded Language"

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jzY2-GRDiPM>

Mos Def—"Beef"

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fVmhZW1dDis>

Sage Francis—"Hopeless"

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rdSbLCFs-KY>

Ernie Cline—"The Geek Wants Out"

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CknjDqOeRnU>

Taylor Mali—"The The Impotence of Proofreading"

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OonDPGwAyfQ>