

## Communication 170 Performance of Literature: Poetry Self-Analysis

Please take notes while viewing your videotape and use the notes to type up a page of comments.

1. Describe the introduction to your poem.

Did you begin with sufficient silence to create a sense of beginning? If you are using one poem, what was the attention-gaining device you used to focus audience attention and interest on the poem? Did you clearly introduce the author and title? Did you speak directly to the audience? Did the introduction “match” the tone or feeling of the poem? Did the introductory remarks create a sense of closure at the end? Did you close the introduction with silence?

2. Describe the performance of the poem. If you read two or more poems, use the prompts below to describe ONE poem in detail.

What performance stance did you choose and why? Did you change stances during the piece and if so, why did you feel those were good choices?

Did you know the piece well enough to lift it off the page? [Whether it’s an open or closed situation, you need to be familiar enough so at least 80% of the piece is off the script.] Did facial expressions seem natural and fitting with the poem? Did you use any gestures [Describe them] and were these incorporated naturally into the performance?

Describe your use of voice. Identify a line where you felt you were successful in creating the effect of the line. Identify a line where you felt vocal delivery might have been at odds with the meaning of the poem. Consider: rate, pitch, tone, cadence, enunciation, projection, pauses.

If you used blocking [movement], how was this motivated by the action of the lines in the poem?

3. Please answer this **ONLY** if you have more than one piece you will be performing.

What did you say to introduce your second (or third) piece? Did you frame the remarks with silence? Briefly describe how the two pieces fit together.

4. Describe what you might change in the actual performance.