

The background is a textured, aged, light beige paper. On the left side, there are several black ink splatters of varying sizes, some appearing as solid circles and others as more diffuse, blotchy marks. The overall aesthetic is that of a vintage or artistic document.

Poetry **Convention** in Isolation

building confidence in young writers

Essentialization

1. Write a memoir in 24 words.
2. Write a memoir in 12 words.
3. Write a memoir in 6 words.
4. Write a memoir in 1 word.



The Workshop

Participation (produce opportunity)

- Not concerned with spelling, grammar, or usage. Instead - fluency, craft, and voice.
- No required length.
- Read-backs are voluntary.
- Facilitator - model participation.

Ritual

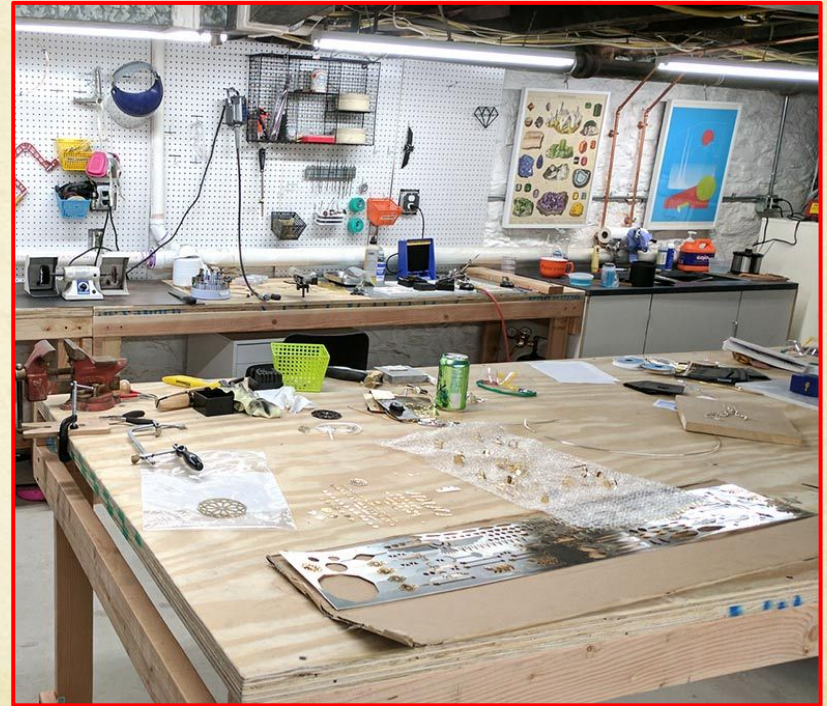
- Consistency in delivery of a workshop. Safety and familiarity.
- Ritualized environment creates a sense of home.
- Check-in? Helps to get rid of nerves and also begin with writing process in the sharing.
- Try to ritualize language. Instead of 'if you need help,' try 'if you get stuck,' Instead of problem, maybe consider challenge.

Modeling

- Emphasizes the relationship between reading and writing.
- Privileges skill over intuition.

Challenges

What are some challenges, real or perceived, in student poetry workshops?



Step-by-Step

1. Introduce the concept and unpack vocabulary.
2. Observe the model.
3. Do keyword analysis or positive feedback practice.
4. Discuss the use of the concept.
5. Model application of the concept (group brainstorm)
6. Write (30 minutes)
7. Share out.
8. Positive feedback.



Shout Out Workshop

Terminology

Breaks: the lengths and spacings of lines and stanzas in a poem.

Hook: refrain or chorus; a central section of a song or poem that is repeated throughout the piece.

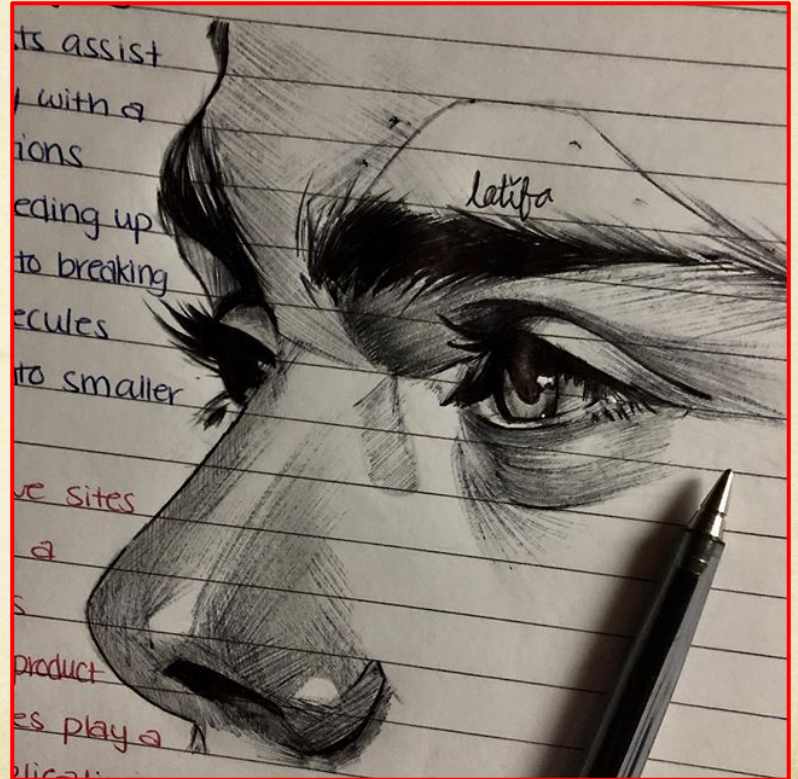
Imagery: the use of description language to appeal to the reader's senses (all senses) and express meaning in a clear, powerful way.

Safe space: an environment that is free of physical and emotional violence, where risks and mistakes are praised instead of ridiculed.

Shout out: to give recognition through oration or text.

Stanzas: groups of lines in a poem that are spaced apart from one another, similar to paragraphs in non-poetry texts.

Turn: the action of a line when it ends and restarts on the next line below it.



Shout Out

By **Sekou Sundiata**

Here's to the best words
In the right place
At the perfect time to the human mind
Blown-up and refined.
To long conversations and the
Philosophical ramifications of a beautiful day.
To the twelve-steppers
At the thirteenth step
May they never forget
The first step.
To the increase, to the decrease
To the do, to the do
To the did to the did
To the do to the did
To the done done
To the lonely.
To the brokenhearted.
...



(Sundiata, 2018)

Shake the Dust

by **Anis Mojgani**



(TWLOHA, 2010)

This is for the fat girls.
This is for the little brothers.
This is for the school-yard wimps, this is for the
childhood bullies who tormented them.
This is for the former prom queen, this is for the
milk-crate ball players.
This is for the nighttime cereal eaters and for
the retired, elderly Wal-mart store front door
greeters. Shake the dust.
This is for the benches and the people sitting
upon them,
for the bus drivers driving a million broken
hymns,
for the men who have to hold down three jobs
simply to hold up their children,
for the nighttime schoolers and the midnight
bike riders who are trying to fly. Shake the dust.
This is for the two-year-olds who cannot be
understood because they speak half-English and
half-god. Shake the dust.

...

Practice

Trigger Warning by **Donney Rose**



Brainstorm

What conventions can we pull from this performance to model in a student workshop?

Other Workshop Ideas

Concept

Model

Where I'm from

Where I'm From (Digable Planets)

Poetic Questions

Book of Questions (Pablo Naruda)

Simile

Astronomy (8th Light) (Mos Def & Talib Kweli)

Personification

Money (Poetri)

Persona

Mistress Stella Speaks (Tyehimba Jess)

What it's like

What It's Like to Be a Black Girl (For Those of You Who Aren't)(Patricia Smith)

References

Sundiata, Sekou. [Sekou Sundiata Topic]. (2018, July 30). Shout out [Video]. YouTube.

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To Write Love On Her Arms. [TWLOHA]. (2010, Jan 14). Anis Mojgani performs Shake the Dust at HEAVY AND LIGHT [Video]. YouTube.

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Write About Now. [Write About Now Poetry]. (2015, Oct 20). Donney Rose - "Trigger Warning" @WANPOETRY (TGS 2015) [Video]. YouTube.

<https://youtu.be/i-qH8VzQxo4>

Essentialization and Shout Out exercises were influenced by the Wordplay Teen Writing Project 2008-2009 composed by the teaching artists and staff including Chancellor Skidmore, Anna West, Latasha Weatherspoon, Donney Rose, Dr. Sue Weinstein, and Anna Hirsch. Some of the workshops in that curriculum were developed by teaching artists including Jenn Morea, Krista Franklin, Kevin Coval, and the staff of Young Chicago Authors.