

Shadow Poem Assignment
Writer's Mind
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For this assignment, you must use the elements of poetry to explore a shadowy part of yourself. An effective poem is a tricky thing. It should be personalized and use vivid, specific, concrete imagery but convey a message that is relatable to a variety of readers. By forcing ourselves to contemplate the parts of ourselves that make us uncomfortable, we work not only to overcome writer's block, but to connect with our readers in a deeper, more meaningful, innately human way.

Brainstorm about your own shadows, and choose a specific incident or quality to focus on. In crafting your poem, try to use some of the elements we have observed, such as:

- Concrete imagery
- Metaphor and simile
- Alliteration, consonance, assonance
- Line breaks
- Stanzas

Consider the examples from the Shadow reading and the poems discussed in class. The poems vary in style and subject, but they all use poetic devices to explore a complicated topic.

Requirements:

1. Focus on a specific incident that illustrates a part of your life or yourself that you generally keep in shadow.
2. Your purpose here is to explore and reveal your shadow in a way that is simultaneously personal and universal. The incident may be solely yours, but the emotion connected with the shadow should be largely relatable.
3. Write in poem form and spend time crafting the piece using poetic device to enhance the tone and subject of your shadow.

Final Product: 1 page (you may use columns), following basic MLA formatting (Times New Roman, 1" margins, heading top left with your name, professor's name, course, and date) while tailoring it to the standards of a poem (10 or 12pt font, single-spaced, one blank line between stanzas).