

Poetry Anthology

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This learner-directed presentation appeals to a wide range of skill levels and allows learners to research poetry at their own pace. Creating and presenting an anthology of poems introduces each learner to poetry appreciation and analysis.

This idea originated from an article in the April, 1997 edition of the *English Journal*. Poems are selected for the anthology with a specific recipient in mind. Illustrations and narratives stand as interpretations for each poem, drawing the learner into a deeper understanding of the art of poetry. A variety of sources may be used for illustrations: magazine, the Internet or the learner's own artistic ability. A classroom presentation allows the learner to showcase individual creativity as demonstrated by the choice of pictures and accompanying text. When the anthology is complete, it is brought to the special recipient. A short response is written by the recipient to be included in the final product.

Learners in programs with limited resources have the same opportunities to create quality products as programs at the other end of the budget spectrum. The materials need not be anything more than a collection of poetry books (from the local library or purchases at used bookstores), colored paper, paints or pencils, plastic report covers and possibly a computer. If a computer is available, the opportunity to introduce it as a tool for research should be taken. As this is a learner-directed activity, the instructor must merely make him or herself available for consultation and guidance.