



## An Introduction to Poetry Writing

### Building a Poem From the Bottom Up—An Introduction to Poetry Writing

- **COST FOR COURSE:  
\$35 FOR ALL 6 CLASSES**
- **DATES: TUESDAY'S  
FEBRUARY 3 - MARCH 10**
- **COURSE MEETS:  
2:00PM—3:30PM**

**“There is a poet—or a kind of poet—buried in every human being...” - James Dickey, *Poets on Poetry*.**

**Class #1:**

**“Assembling the Materials”**

This class will begin with the student writing a prose memory, which we will examine for the basic building blocks to write a poem. Handouts will be provided, there will be in-class writing, and homework will be assigned.

**Class #2: “Laying the Foundation”**

This class will discuss how poetry differs from prose, including structure, line breaks, stanzas, and figures of speech, comparing the rules of prose to the rules of poetry, and using these techniques to revise the poem in progress. Handouts will be provided, there will be in-class writing, and homework will be assigned.

**Class #3: “A Matter of Style”**

This class will examine the poem in progress to determine whether it should be metered and rhymed, free verse or experimental. Examples of possible forms and poetic techniques will be discussed.

Handouts will be provided, there will be in-class writing, and homework will be assigned.

**Class #4: “Finishing Touches”**

This class will discuss the importance of first and last lines, as well as the use of such techniques as repetition, line inversions, and premise reversals. Handouts will be provided, there will be in-class writing, and homework will be assigned.

**Class #5: “Writing to Prompts”**

This class will discuss the techniques used to write a poem to a prompt, as in poetry competitions. Handouts will be provided, there will be in-class writing, and homework will be assigned.

**Class #6: “Is the Finished Poem Up to Code?”**

This class will discuss review and revision, using a checklist provided. Final questions will be answered.