

STYLE SHEET FOR BECOMING AN INSTAPOET

- constructing the text: creating Instapoems -

Info Box – Creating Instapoems: in order to write an Instapoem you need to be aware of the possibilities and limits of the app Instagram while remembering to apply the general characteristics of Instapoetry. Famous artists like Rupi Kaur have managed to find their own voice and style within this genre and you should experience the same. Follow your own ideas and creativity and **always remember there are no fixed rules when it comes to writing an Instapoem**. However, you can use the following steps as a guide:



Step 1: choosing

- choose one of the listed topics as a first help to generate¹ ideas and inspiration:

- *responsibility*
- *jealousy*
- *time*
- *fingers*
- *free*
- *stillness*
- *home*
- *progress*



Step 2: brainstorming

- take notes on your ideas for creating and writing the poem. It's okay if your ideas are different from the list in 1.
- get together with a peer who chose the same poem. Share and specify your ideas. Decide on your own whether to start with the text a) or the visual b)
- use the following questions to help you order your thoughts:
 - a) content:
 - what is my central message? How can I put my ideas and feelings into the content?
 - what mood do I want to communicate? How can I do it? What words/language fit my message best?
 - which perspective can communicate my message best? (e.g., first or third person perspective/personal (you) perspective/abstract perspective)
 - b) visual:
 - what visual comes to my mind when I think about the topic?
 - how can I express the essence² of my topic visually or graphically?
- depending on the path you choose, either a) decide on a way to express the content of the poem visually and come up with an illustration or b) use the visualization to generate the content and write your poem

¹**generate** – to produce or create something; to cause something to exist (verb)

²**essence** – the basic or most important idea or quality of something (noun)





Class:

#instapoetry

Date:

Step 3: drafting

- with the help of your notes, start writing the first draft of your poem. You may exchange ideas with your partner and ask for feedback at any time during the drafting
- try to stick to **the general characteristics** of Instagram poems:
 - minimalistic, short and app appropriate
 - 'shareable' and 'likeable'
 - relatable (e.g., personal/autobiographical elements or universal issues)
 - simple, easy to understand and clear
 - use (display) appropriate spelling
 - illustration, captions, and/or hashtags should assist the process of reception
 - visualization (e.g., illustrations) as an eye-catcher
 - no titles: use short captions or keywords below the poem to sum it up/give it additional meaning/make a point/make it easier to be shared (cf. hashtag)
- let your mind flow and enjoy the creative illustrating and writing process



Step 4: combine your elements

- find a suitable way to combine the draft of your text and your visualization: it is rather easy to use Instagram's editing tools (or *Zeob*), but you can also use any image editing app that best suits your idea
- save or screenshot your edit, send it to your teacher and share it on the Instagram class chat or the class group on your learning platform



Step 5: feedback and editing

- use a dictionary to check unfamiliar words/phrases
- ask a peer to give feedback on your text (e.g., in the class chat) and/or use the checklist with feedback-criteria yourself
- revise and improve your poem with the given feedback



Step 6: publishing

- finally, create your final version and add a suiting description for your post
- don't forget to add your unique signature, (pen) name, initial(s) or any identity marker
- publish/share your product with your class via Instagram or the learning platform
- like, comment, react and interact in and with the posts published by your peers but always stick to the netiquette!



If you follow these steps, you should have a good and successful time writing an actual Instapoem!



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