

# Group Poem

Grades 8-12

**Educational Objective:** The students will demonstrate their ability to communicate verbally by creating a group poem.

**Materials Needed:** Slips of paper, Blindfolds.

**Hook:** Take the students into the hallway and have them stand in a line. Give everyone a blindfold. Have them grab the shoulder of the person in front of them. Lead them on a tour where they are forced to touch different textures (walls, doors etc.). Lead them into the sun or the cold or different experiences. Then lead them back to the class and have them remove the blindfolds.

**Step 1:** Put them into groups of five or so. Then give everyone a slip of paper and assign each person in the group varying numbers (1-10). Tell them they must describe their blind experience using that exact number of words. Have them write their description on the slip.

**Step 2:** Now have each group arrange their slips of paper so that it creates a poem. They cannot change, delete or add words. Just put the slips of paper in an order that sounds best to them. Give them 4 or 5 minutes.

**Step 3:** Have each group read their poem to the class.

**Step 4:** Briefly discuss the poems. Are they good? Are they surprised? Was it easy?

**Step 5:** Now each group must perform their poem. There are no rules in performing the poem. They may use the poem as dialogue, they may use only certain words, it can be a silent performance, it can be practical, it can be metaphoric, it can be symbolic. Give them about ten minutes to put together their performance and then have them all perform. After each performance discuss them. Where they good? What did they mean? Did the audience enjoy it? Etc.

**Step 6:** Discuss the entire lesson. What did we learn?